

Check out TRAVEL for a sneak peak at the Shengsi Islands **Page 16**



Visit Milan home to fabulous fashion and food in FOOD **Page 12**



Get backstage passes to The Ring of the Nibelung in CULTURE **Page 10**



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4 2005

NO. 231

CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM



Going, going, gone: Christie's holds its first auction in China

By Annie Wei

It seems Christie's, the well-known English auction house, is the first foreign auction house to capitalize on China's booming art market, with Forever, Christie's Chinese partner auction house. The joint venture kicked off their partnership with the auctioning of over 200 Chinese paintings yesterday.

The *New York Times* quoted Christie's representatives as saying Christie's had signed an agreement to conduct the auction. In order to meet Chinese government regulations on foreign businesses holding auctions they had to team up with the newly established local auction house, Forever.

The auction, Fine Modern and Contemporary Chinese Paintings, had a large selection of paintings, including White Poplar Woods (estimated value: six to seven million yuan) by Wu Guangzhong (born 1919). Other famous paintings included in the auction are by Zhang Daqian (1899-1983), Wu Changshuo (1844-1927), and Qi Baishi (1863-1957).

The event attracted over 360 people from home and abroad. Many participants were drawn in by the legendary Christie's name, as the auction house has been established for more than 200 years, with branches all over the world. Christie's is also regarded as the best in the business.

"For an inaugural sale for a newly-established auction house, the auction went pretty well," said Song Chen, an editor for *Collection Auction* magazine.

Both companies emphasized that their cooperation only lies in the use of Christie's logos and trademarks by Forever in China under license. Therefore, Forever will pay Christie's for the use of their name under the license.

"The auction was in fact conducted by Forever," said He Hongchao, Forever representative.

To guarantee the auction met Forever's and Christie's standards, Christie's advised Forever throughout the entire process from the acquisition of works,

printing and design of the catalog to the auction itself.

Edward Dolman, chief executive officer, Christie's International said that the Forever's international vision and auction house set up was the main reason why Christie's decided to lend its license to Forever. However, they do not have any plans to lend their logos or trademarks to any other Chinese auction houses at the moment.

The first week of this month is a busy time for auction houses in China. Another well-known auction house, China Guardian Auctions, will hold its auction in Beijing's Kunlun Hotel tomorrow.

Photo by Forever

Secret caves discovered in Zhoukoudian

By Han Manman

Secret caves in a Beijing suburb where prehistoric humans may have once lived were discovered at the Zhoukoudian Peking Man UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The discovery may fill the void of the Peking Man history and even shed light on 700,000 years of history.

The Peking Man Site International Technical Committee (ITC) in Zhoukoudian announced the results of a recent Sino-French joint exploration at Dragon Bone Hill, the site is located 50 kilometers southwest of Beijing.

The naturally occurring caves and crannies are suitable living areas for prehistoric humans. Experts speculate the Dragon Bone Cave was once inhabited by ancient mankind.

"We have already found some sediment in the cave. The next step is to explore if the sediment consists of local rocks or was brought here by ancient mankind. We could probably prove mankind lived in the caves if we found some animal fossils", Wu Xinzhi, expert from ITC explained a simple manner. He added, "We will consider excavating the cave to find fossils and ancient relics left by prehistoric humans."

The announcement of the new discovery was coupled with news that the Peking Man site boundary will be expanded for increased preservation. According to ITC, the site's comprehensive protection scheme has been completed and approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. The new plan will include neighboring areas where new relics have been discovered in recent years. Since the Zhoukoudian site may house other excavation sites, some villages around the site will have to move. The exact date and the number of residents who will need to relocate have not been decided yet.

As for the recent speculation that the lost Peking Man skulls is buried under the Japanese imperial palace, Professor Gao Xing, deputy director of Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology & Palaeoanthropology (IVPP) said this is a mere guess.



Sino-French experts explore Peking man site

Photo by ITC



ISU figure skating competition commences in Beijing

The Cup of China International Skating Union Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2005 raises its curtain yesterday at the Capital Sports Stadium in Beijing. Rus-

sian skaters Tatiana Navka (right) and Roman Kostomarov rank first in the ice dance competition - compulsory dance competition with the score of 36.83.

Xinhua Photo

Experts doubt results from Chinese Sturgeon study

By Chu Meng

Experts are skeptical about the results of an environmental protection research project, which says the number of an endangered wild fish in the Yangtze River have decreased as a result of the construction of a large dam. The research project was awarded this year's Ford Motor Environmental Protection Award last week.

Sichuan University students conducted the research project. The project investigated the relationship between the number of Chinese Sturgeon and the building of the Gezhou Dam, a huge hydroelectric project built in the 1980s. They concluded that the construction the Gezhou Dam caused the reduced number of Chinese Sturgeon. The award committee praised the project calling it a comprehensive project that focused on the ecological diversity of wild fish, especially the Chinese Sturgeon, in the core reserve area of the Yangtze River.

They calculated the number of mistakenly caught sturgeons by fisherman every year in the section between Xiluodu Dam to Xiangjiaba Dam; these dams are located after the Gezhou Dam.

Since the sturgeon is a migrating species it hatches and matures in coastal waters and enters into rivers after sexual maturity. The Gezhou Dam is located in an essential part of the migration route. Therefore, according to the study the number of the mistakenly caught sturgeon can reflect the influence of the dam.

However, experts doubted the number of mistakenly caught sturgeon could accurately reflect the true population of the species.

Yu Xiaogang, an environmentalist commented, "Because fishermen can sell the rare fish on the black market to local restaurants the average price is about 300 yuan per kilogram. These tempting benefits will stop them from reporting the actual number of mistakenly caught fish to the government. I do not deny that the Gezhou Dam has greatly endangered the Chinese Sturgeon in the past decade. However, we need more scientific statistics from the Chinese Academy of Science."

The Chinese sturgeon is a class I state protection animal and was also listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 1997.

It is only found in the Yangtze River, Zhujiang River, Minjiang River, Qiantangjiang River and the Yellow River. It is extinct in most rivers and only a small population is left in the Yangtze River.

Greece to collaborate with Beijing on Olympic security

By Zhou Ying

Greece, the host of the last Olympics, signed an agreement, yesterday, vowing to cooperate with Beijing on security issues for the upcoming Olympics. The partnership aims to make the 2008 Olympics run smoothly with the help and hindsight of the Greek government.

The agreement is based on the, "transfer of experience and know-how that the Greek police acquired during the programming and application of the model of Olympic security," Greek Public Order Minister, Georges Voulgarakis, said at the news conference.

The minister arrived in China on Tuesday at the head of a large delegation that included Greek police chief, Georges Aguelakos, and former head of Olympic security, Vassilis Contantinidis, for an official four-day visit.

According to the Greek government, Athens spent 1.2 billion euros on Olympic security. It deployed more than 100,000 security personnel - outnumbering athletes by almost 11 to one - amid worldwide concerns of possible terrorist attacks on the world's premier sporting event.

Voulgarakis explained that the agreement was just a rough frame agreement of cooperation on security issues for the Olympic games. "The Greek government will hold detail discussions on the specific projects with Chinese officials," he added.

The minister said that the cooperation of the two countries would guarantee success for Beijing Olympic security. "The Athens Olympic Games last year can be called a great success in terms of security. We are quite happy to share and transfer our experience and specific technology to China," he said.

Voulgarakis recalled that experts from home and abroad had gathered together in Athens for three months before the event to have thorough discussions on Olympic security.

"We had to take everything into consideration, and figure out what we would do, even if say, Athens was completely blown up," he added. Another member of the delegation was "quite impressed" by the great development of China, and he believed the nation would enjoy a successful Beijing 2008 Olympics.

"The agreement opened a new channel for the close cooperation of the two countries, and I believe that it will also further enhance the relationship of China and Greece," Voulgarakis added.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: JIAN RONG
EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN
DESIGNER: DENG NING

China tightens bird flu monitoring

By Qiu Jiaoning

The State will allocate 2 billion yuan (US\$250 million) out of this year's central budget to set up a bird flu prevention and control fund. A national headquarters will be set up to oversee prevention and control work, according to 12 measures adopted at the executive meeting of the State Council.

The new measures include increased monitoring for outbreaks, the creation of a national disease warning system and punishment for those who hide or fail to report

an outbreak.

The measures urge localities to perfect monitoring and forecasting systems. There will be serious legal penalties for those who delay to report or cover up an outbreak.

Furthermore, the measures encourage the disinfection of border areas, poultry farms and water supplies. The regulations give priority to the development of effective high-tech vaccines.

During the meeting the importance of success in prevention and control was stressed. Council members warned that

strict measures should be taken to prevent human infection of the virus.

The Ministry of Commerce has banned the import of all poultry and poultry related products from 14 countries that have recorded bird flu outbreaks, according to the Ministry. The countries include Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, North Korea, Romania, Croatia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Mongolia, Turkey, Russia and Sweden. The suspension will be enforced until further notice.

The State has already banned the

sale, transportation and consumption of animals and birds that die of unknown illnesses.

In addition, Hebei Province has joined efforts with Beijing in launching a move to cut off all the possible channels for the spread of bird flu. To prevent and control the spread of the H5N1 virus, both Beijing city and Hebei provincial governments agreed to establish a joint checkup and prevention system that will involve strict examinations along the 10-kilometer border of Hebei and Beijing.

New regulation fights for labors' rights

By Zhou Ying

Over 1.3 million Beijing employees will have greater employment protection by signing collective, rather than individual contracts, thanks to new labor regulations. The changes will take effect this month.

The new regulation released by the Beijing government, stipulates that companies cannot refuse to consult with employees on the issues of salary and welfare.

The regulation, which is expected to reduce conflicts between employees and employers, suggests the employees sign a collective contract with their employers, instead of the individual contracts.

The trade union in a company can sign a contract with the company to make decisions on specific issues such as salary, vacations, welfare, and bonuses, according to Zhang Kaitai, director of the collective contract department of the Beijing Federation of Trade Union.

"The surplus labor market has allowed companies to impose unfair contract terms on employees, such as postponement of wages, and the extension of work time. The new regulation could provide a legal platform for both sides to sit down and negotiate," said Zhang.

The Labor and Employment Law actually proposed the use of the collective contract in 1995. However, only 1.2 million workers signed the collective contract. "The lack of public awareness made employees indifferent to the new contract," Zhang explained.

Guan Huai, professor from the Law Department at Renmin University, said the law helps to guarantee the rights of employees, "Representatives selected by the employees can sign a contract with their employers. The conflict can be easily solved by collective power, rather than individually."

Guan said that some companies do not even sign personal contracts, let alone a collective one. "The employees should take joint efforts to fight for their proper rights," he warned.

Wang Liang, a Beijing employee, said that there was no doubt that the regulation will benefit employees. However, it would take time for the public to get accustomed to the new regulation.

"A supervision system also is needed to keep an eye on whether the company obeys the regulation," he added.

Director Zhang revealed that the number of employees in Beijing who sign collective contracts is expected to reach 60 percent of the total workforce.

2008 Olympic Licensing Program kicks off

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) formally launched the Olympic Licensing Program on Wednesday. Three models show the licensed clothes at the ceremony. The BOCOG will unveil the mascot for the 2008 Olympics on Friday.

Xinhua Photo



Imported vehicle prices expected to plummet

By Chu Meng

Domestic import auto dealerships will now have to start paying the comprehensive tax on imported automobiles as well as previously imported vehicles that are currently stored in free trade zones (FTZ) in Tianjin, Shanghai and Dalian ports starting this month. Analysts predict it will put pressure on imported auto markets to reduce automobile prices.

These taxes include the tariff for imported goods, value added tax and consumer tax, accounting for approximately 65 percent of the sticker price. In the past, these taxes were paid directly by consumers. The regulation also requires auto dealers to pay the taxes for all the surplus automobiles they have in stock.

The Ministry of Commerce released the regulation in an attempt to adjust the development strategies of the domestic auto industry after the entering the WTO.

"In recent years, there has been an increase in competitive domestic auto brands. There has also been

a rash of dealerships importing low quality vehicles. The ministry has decided to regulate the market with the new tax rule," said the spokesman for the ministry.

Ding Hongxiang, general manager of the China Trading Center for Automobile Import said, "As far as I know, the imported car market will face a period of slight price decline from now until the beginning of next year. Dealers, who still have a large storage of imported cars, will be in a rush to sell these cars since they will have to pay the import taxes, since this new rule will increase the dealer's trade cost by 65 percent."

Ding said some dealers without strong capital reserves will be forced to sell the stored cars as soon as possible at comparatively lower prices, in order to get sufficient floating capital. He estimated that in the following three months, an obvious and large-scale price decline will be seen. This will be an ideal time for consumers to purchase imported cars.

New e-payment guideline fights fraud

By Annie Wei

A new guideline on electronic payment has been released this week, aimed at preventing online fraud, but some e-businesses are worried it will stifle online business revenues.

According to the regulation, individual users cannot transfer more than 1,000 yuan (US\$123.45) in a single transaction, and less than 5,000 yuan (US\$617.25) daily if they do not have security authentication. Corporate users are allowed 50,000 yuan (US\$ 6172.5) per day unless the bank has given the company advance clearance.

The People's Bank of China hopes the new guideline will start to streamline e-payments and combat the issues of cyber fraud and money laundering. The regulation comes in response to the increase of e-payments in China.

While some see the regulation in a positive light, some online businesses are unhappy. Ctrip.com, an online travel agency site, is concerned that the new guideline will have a negative impact on online tourism.

However, Lai Yong, manager of the Hainan Airline online ticket sales office, supports the move and feels that government

supervision of the e-payment business is needed. The Hainan Airline website was established in 2003. Since its founding online booking has had a sales revenue of 2.5 billion yuan, e-payments make up 60 percent of this total.

Lai said that many online businesses in China do not have permission from the Industrial and Commerce Bureau, the permission from the government to conduct e-business. "It's important for government to implement regulations on these matters."

Lai said he does not understand why some online businesses are against the new rules. "The People's Bank is China's central bank. The new regulation addresses safety issues in different level banks and financial organizations. Even in the US and Europe where e-business is developed, bank accounts, financial records and tax records are all connected," Lai said.

The regulation does not totally limit the amount of money a business can transfer; it just requires that the business gets permission from the bank. It is possible to transfer an unlimited amount of money as long as the company has the security confirmation from the bank.

PBC expands its RMB business in HK

By Annie Wei

The People's Bank of China (PBC) announced that it will expand its squaring and clearing services to banks in Hong Kong that engage in RMB business.

Some new service includes that the PBC Shenzhen Sub-Branch will now accept RMB deposits from the clearing bank, the cash exchange limit has increased from 6,000 yuan to 20,000 yuan (equivalent per transaction for individuals and designated merchants eligible for RMB business), and eligible parties for the services now include those engaged in transportation, telecommunication, medical and educa-

tional services.

The new announcement also aims to expand Hong Kong residents' RMB transactions, for example mainland banks qualified for conducting personal RMB business may receive, through the clearing bank, RMB remittances from Hong Kong residents up to 80,000 yuan per person per day. This amount has increased from the previous level of 50,000 yuan per person per day.

The PBC also said that the clearing bank will provide clearing services for the RMB checks used by the Hong Kong residents, and the Hong Kong residents may use RMB checks in Guangdong province. These checks are subject to a 80,000 yuan per account daily limit, and customers cannot endorse or transfer the checks to other parties. In addition, the 100,000 yuan credit limit imposed on RMB credit cards issued by the Hong Kong banks will be removed to further the RMB business.

New 40 billion yuan highway for Beijing

By Annie Wei

A new 360-kilometer highway, costing 40 billion yuan, will be built during Beijing's 11th Five-Year Plan and will be funded by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Construction Bank's Beijing Sub-branch.

The Beijing Capital Highway Development Co, Ltd (Beijing Highway Com), a state-owned enterprise founded in 1999, will build the new highway. The company is currently responsible for the majority of highway construction and management in Beijing.

According to Ms. Wang, public relations manager of Beijing Highway Co., the highway will include the north airport road, west fifth ring road, the third leg of the highway between Beijing and Chengde, Beijing-Tianjin-Tangshan highway, and Beijing to Pinggu highway.

Radio administration calls for new regulations

By Zhang Nan

The Beijing Radio Administration Bureau will start examining the city for the illegal use of radio equipment. The examination aims to purify the electromagnetic environment in Beijing for the 2008 Olympics.

"The examination will

cover five areas including shopping centers, supermarkets, hotels, communities and construction sites," said, Zhu Li, director of the first operation department of Beijing Radio Administration Bureau. "At present, we are preparing an examination plan. Once

that is finished, the examination will begin."

However, the current problem is that there are no specific regulations for the staff to manage the radio retail equipment market and to deal with those who use radio equipment illegally.

Number News

Urban residents' income

9.8 The disposable per capita income of China's urban residents rose 9.8 percent in real terms during the first three quarters of 2005, 2.8 percentage points more than that of the same term of 2004, according to a seasonal report released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Gas accident kills 17

17 A coal mine gas accident that occurred at the Fenhema Coal Mine, in Xinzhou, Shanxi Province, killed 17 people, according to the local coal mine safety supervision.

China's aid to Pakistan

20 China's relief aid to Pakistan is totalled at US\$20.5 million (164.1 million yuan) since the October 8 earthquake struck the south Asian country, said Chinese Ambassador Zhang Chunxiang.

Black lung treatment

42 A total of 42 million yuan (US\$5.4 million) has been raised for the medical treatment for more than 200,000 coal miners plagued by pneumoconiosis, or black lung, according to officials with the China coal mine pneumoconiosis treatment fund.

Trade surplus hits US\$68 billion

68 China's trade surplus hit US\$ 68 billion in the first three quarters, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Exports jumped 31.3 percent to US\$546.4 billion (544.2 billion yuan), while imports rose 16 percent to US\$ 478.1 billion.

MP3 manufacturers closed

100 Due to fierce competition and diving sales prices, over 100 small and medium-sized MP3 music player factories have closed down in China over the past few months.

China's investment funds

160 China's investment funds in environmental protection are expected to increase to US\$160 billion (1,282 billion yuan), in the next five years, from 2006 to 2010, according to State Environmental Protection Administration official, Zhou Jian.

Officials invest in coalmines

4,578 Officials had reported investment in coal mines totaling 653 million yuan (US\$80.5 million) by October 20, said Vice-Minister of Supervision Chen Changzhi.

Beijing per capita GDP

6,000 Beijing per capita GDP will reach US\$6,000 (48,200 yuan) by the year 2010, said Beijing mayor, Wang Qishan, when explaining the proposal for the 11th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of Beijing.

Drug-related crimes

74,419 Chinese police have cracked a total of 74,419 drug-related cases, nabbed 49,097 criminal suspects and seized tons of heroin, opium, "ice" and ecstasy pills in the first nine months of the nationwide campaign against narcotics, according to the Office of National Narcotics Control Commission.

(Edited by Feng Nianhua)

Weekly Review – World

J&J may not complete US\$25.4B Guidant deal

Johnson & Johnson warned it might pull out of a US\$25.4 billion (205.4 billion yuan) deal to buy Guidant Corp. because of potential liability linked to their sweeping product recalls and a regulatory investigation. But Guidant officials said J&J was legally bound to go through with the deal.

Meanwhile, analysts said J&J might turn its focus to Guidant's rival, St. Jude Medical Inc., in its quest to diversify. St. Jude spokeswoman Angela Craig said the company does not comment on speculation.

– AP

1,500 machinists strike at Boeing aerospace operations

Some 1,500 machinists at Boeing's aerospace and defense operations went on strike after failing to reach terms on a contract that expired October 23, the union and the company said.

The strike began on Wednesday at seven facilities of Boeing's defense division in California, Alabama and Florida. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) said the employees rejected the latest Boeing offer because it "slashed retiree benefits, raised health care premiums, and failed to include adequate pension increases."

– AFP

World Bank raises East Asia growth forecast on China expansion

The World Bank (WB) raised its 2005 economic growth forecast for East Asia to 6.2 percent from an April estimate of 6 percent, citing faster-than-expected expansion in China.

China's economy will probably expand 9.3 percent, more than an earlier projection of 8.3 percent, the WB said in a twice-yearly report on the region. The lender, whose definition of East Asia excludes Japan and the Indian subcontinent, cut its growth forecast for South Korea to 3.8 percent from 4.2 percent and its estimate for Thailand to 4.2 percent from 5.2 percent.

– Bloomberg

Steel oversupply leads to price slump

By Qiu Jiaoning

Surplus production has led to a fall in the price of steel on the Chinese market, a situation made worse by increased production costs, according to the China Iron & Steel Association (CISA.)

The surplus production capacity has resulted in the continuous slide of steel prices on the domestic market since April. China's steel price index has decreased from a high level of 138.33 points in March to 109.39 points in September, showing a 20.92 percent decrease.

Price of hot-rolled steel has even been close to the price of wire rods and screw steel. Prices of some panel products have dropped to lower than production costs. Under such pressures, the profit mar-

gins for the steel industry in China are getting smaller.

CISA believes that the price plummet has severely affected the restructuring of the steel industry. The local government must carry out macro adjustment, and restrict the massive increase of local production capacity. At the same time, the country should adopt adjustment measures to limit production, restrict the increase of steel output, and protect the market from sharp fluctuations.

"Considering the internal enterprises, we should accelerate the pace of consolidation and reorganization and reinforce enterprises' technological improvements," said Luo Bingsheng, sec-

retary general of CISA.

According Luo, the production capacity of the blast furnaces on the elimination list, which are 300 cubic meters and below, is 99.8 million tons. The elimination of this part of production capacity may lower the demand for iron ore.

From January to September this year, the crude steel output was about 255 million tons, showing a 27.39 percent increase on a year-on-year basis. This is the highest level in recent years. If such a growth rate is maintained, steel output will reach 344 million tons this year.

Luo said that the situation has improved since the end of October, and China's domestic steel prices are expected to rebound.

Legend, Warburg Pincus ink real estate deal

By James Liu

Global private-equity player Warburg Pincus has teamed up with Legend Holding's real estate arm, Raycom Real Estate Development.

The two firms are hoping to build a model of cooperation between a Chinese developer and a global foreign investor, which the parties claim is a market first. Raycom brings local knowledge, a development track record and a brand, while Warburg Pincus offers investment expertise, financing strength and risk-control systems.

Initially, Warburg Pincus, which has US\$12.5 billion (100.83 billion yuan) under management, will invest US\$31 million (250.06 million yuan) in projects Raycom is now developing. These projects include Olive City, a large mid-end residential development in northeast Beijing. The partnership will also invest in commercial developments, in both first- and second-tier cities.

Raycom was founded in 1994 as Legend Tech Park Development. It develops and operates Grade-A office properties in major cities, including the now re-



Yang Yuanqing (left), Chairman of Lenovo Group, and Steve Ward, President and CEO of Lenovo Group Ltd., at the Lenovo 2005/06 interim report on Tuesday. Lenovo reported a 13.45 percent increase in first-half net profits.

named Technology Park in Beijing's high-tech Zhongguancun. Legend has recently made headlines through its controlling interest in Lenovo, which acquired IBM's PC business.

Warburg Pincus has invested US\$610 million in companies in China, including AsiaInfo, Harbin Pharmaceuticals, Kasen International and Harbor Networks.

Weekly Review – Nation

DaimlerChrysler leads the way in car financing in China

By James Liu

DaimlerChrysler has become the first automotive company in China to provide customer and dealer financing for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

The new company, DaimlerChrysler Auto Finance (China) Ltd. (DCAFC), began offering customer and dealer financing services in September. The finance unit was officially opened on Wednesday.

DCAFC, headquartered in Beijing with approximately 50 employees, will work closely with dealers in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou to provide 'one-stop-solutions' for their customers.

HSBC sets up fund management JV in Shanghai

By Han Manman

Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Co., Ltd. (HSBC) is to set up a fund-management joint venture with Shanxi Trust and Investment Corp. in Shanghai. The new company named HSBC Jinxin Fund Management Co., Ltd. has a registered capital of 200 million yuan (US\$24.7 million.) It is expected to launch its first fund in early 2006. HSBC Investments Management will invest 98 million yuan (US\$12.1 million) to take a 49 percent share of the joint venture. Jintrust will take the remaining 51 percent.

McDonald's China bosses axed over weak performance

By Han Manman

McDonald's (China) dismissal of senior executives is being linked to what head office believes is a "weak" performance by the company. After Peter Tan, president of McDonald's China Development Company, was suddenly dismissed in June, there were more dismissals: Tim Lai, McDonald's managing director for North China, and Shi Wenzhe, McDonald's Beijing area general manager.

According to McDonald's China Company, they have already set up a new organizational framework, which will simplify the reporting procedure and increase the company's management efficiency.



the promise
A CHEN KAIGE FILM

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

真正的速度是看不见的。
就像风起云涌，日落月升；就像你不知道什么时候树叶开始变黄；就像你不知道什么时候会爱上他……

北京青年报让你看到真正的速度

As the world speeds up, we slow it down.

Do you want to subscribe to Beijing Today? Call us today at (010) 65902626.

订报热线：(010) 67756666 订报网址：http://www.bjxhm.com.cn

著名影星 陈红

Seiichi Kawasaki, Vice Chairman & President of Sony (China) Ltd.

Global localization is the future

By Qiu Jiaoning

Q: Sony announced a major restructure recently, under which, the group will be split into three parts: hardware, contents and finance. Will there be any strategic restructure for Sony China?

A: Sony China will move forward by integrating its three core businesses – electronics, a part of our hardware company, and games and entertainment, a major part of the contents company. In particular, we will revitalize the electronics business by focusing on further reconstruction and growth when Sony's mid-term corporate strategy plan is announced.

Sir Howard Stringer (Chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation) refers to 'Sony United'. These are our three core business parts: electronics, entertainment, and games. They co-operate, but are independent. In China, our key business has focused on electronics.

Q: Sony's revenue from the Chinese market only accounts for 10 percent of the company's total revenue in electronics business. Is there development potential here?

A: China is becoming an engine to drive the global development of Sony. In fact, Sony China is already an important force in revitalizing Sony's global business. In the next three years, the business of Sony China will maintain a growth speed of over 50 percent, and sales of US\$8 billion (64.56 billion yuan) will be realized by 2008. China will become Sony's second largest market behind the US.

Sony products now reach only 10 to 20 percent of the population, leaving huge room for growth. The fact you have GDP growth of 10 percent a year means millions of people are coming to a new stage where they can consume more products.

Q: What is the most important task for you? What are your long-term goals?

A: In recent years, Sony China has kept a stable annual growth rate of over 50 percent. The Chinese market is increasingly developed and, with such significant potential, Sony's global top management wants to focus here. The tasks for us are: to make the Chinese market bigger. To make Sony different from our rivals and to win in this intensely competitive market.

Q: How is your management concept compatible with Chinese culture?

A: Sony's success in marketing its products worldwide rests on distinctive styling and 'global localization', a practice that retains product development in Japan, while disbursing manufacturing among plants in Europe, the US, and Asia. My understanding is that we think globally but act locally, which heavily influences my management style. Sony China has to be acceptable in Chinese society. Nowadays, people may regard Sony as a foreign company, but our company does produce more products locally. I am trying to implement 'global localization' here.

Q: Sony China's development strategy has paid more attention to localization this year. How long before we have 'Designed in China' products alongside 'Made in China' ones?

A: Sony has set up Sony China Design & Engineering Group and Sony China Creative center. To develop products best suited for Chinese consumers, the company is boosting use of local software and designers.

This is the nature of localization. It usually has been 'Made in China' but I am trying to design in China. The products should be made by the people in China for the people in China. But maybe that is not the end.

Q: What will be the biggest challenges for Sony China?

A: To make our company respected and different from others in the industry. The Chinese market is getting big, our competitors are not only local manufacturers, but also international corporations.

Nowadays, China has become one of the most promising countries in the world. To keep a leading position in such a dynamic market, establishment of local engineering and manufacturing systems remains essential to all enterprises. As for Sony, the wholly-owned new technology center founded in Shanghai in June demonstrates the company's determination to further strengthen its local research and development forces. In the future, Sony will integrate all regional sources and further enhance local production and engineering capabilities in China.

Q: How is the consumer electronics industry performing in China overall?

A: It is one of the areas of toughest competition. Local and foreign manufacturers from Japan, South Korea, Europe and the US are trying to do business in China. The numbers are big and the size of the market is limited.

Q: Has the change in China's environment for investment had any effect on your company?

A: Particularly after China's entry to WTO, the overall investment environment has been positive. After WTO, people's perspectives changed. People had more confidence. But it doesn't mean all of them can profit. Many foreign companies think that China's market is much more open than before.



Seiichi Kawasaki's office is decorated with the Chinese character 'Dream'. Photos by River



Seiichi Kawasaki in Sony's newly constructed office near Sanyuanqiao.



About Seiichi Kawasaki

Mr. Seiichi Kawasaki began working for Sony after graduation from the Law Dept. of Japan Kyushuu University in 1979. From 1979 to 1986, he worked in Sony's Intellectual Property Department. He was appointed sales manager for Consumer Product Overseas Marketing. He was manager of Sony's Middle East Department from 1990 to 1995 and then president of Sony (Indonesia) Ltd.. In 1997, Kawasaki became general manager of Consumer Sales & Marketing Group of Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Ltd.. He was appointed Director & President of Sony (China) Ltd. in 1998. He has been Vice Chairman & President since 2004.

About Sony

An innovative Japanese consumer-electronics company founded by Masaru Ibuka and Akio Morita in 1946, Sony started out manufacturing heating pads, rice cookers, and other small appliances. They soon switched to high technology, unveiling Japan's first reel-to-reel magnetic tape recorder in 1950 and then its first FM transistor radio in 1955. Sony's later innovations in consumer electronics included the Trinitron color television picture tube (1968), the Betamax videocassette recorder (1975), the Walkman personal stereo (1979), the compact disk player (1982), the 8mm video camera (1985), and the Video Walkman (1988).

Sony established Representative Offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu in 1978. A wholly owned regional managing Company, 'Sony (China) Ltd.' was established in 1996.



Sony (China)'s office in Beijing



The enforcement was conducted house by house.

Anger over service fees divides communities



By Zhou Ying

Beijing Chaoyang People's Court ordered 305 local residents to pay service fees to property managers. During the enforcement of the court's decision, 16 residents were arrested for violently refusing to comply.

According to Wang Dong, deputy director of the Enforcement Department of Beijing Chaoyang People's Court, hundreds of police from the Chaoyang People's Court conducted a simultaneous enforcement of the judgment in 17 local communities, forcing those with overdue fees to pay up. The police officers were met with angry and confused residents.

There has been a long-term conflict between residents and property managers since the establishment of commercial housing. However, this is the first time the court has been involved in this type of case, making it difficult for the public to understand the consequences of noncompliance.

Misunderstanding and complaints

The crackdown arouse complains from residents, some condemned the police saying they were impolite. "They came to collect the fees very early, we weren't even awake yet," Wang Yu, a resident from the Shaoyaoju Community in Chaoyang District complained.

"I could not believe that the police from court broke into homes to ask for the fees," Wang Yu added that he had paid his fees.

Regarding real estate and community services, many buyers complained that developers and property managers used unfair contracts to make buyers more liable in cases of broken contracts and used fine print and different 'tricks' to make consumers pay more money.

Another common complaint was that community organizations or property managers charged residents fees for services that were never provided. Since the organizations had exclusive service rights, buyers had nowhere to turn to complain.

Although he was one of the few who had paid the fees, Wang is still unsatisfied with the services provided by the property manager.

He claimed the property manager failed to follow the terms of the contract. Grass was not planted, and sound insulation equipment was not installed as specified in the contract. "I just wonder why we have to pay for services we didn't get," he added.

"I won't go with you!"



"It's a shame!"



"I'm innocent!"

Photos by BQB

The Beijing Community Management Office conducted a survey of more than 28 communities in Beijing last year, finding that only an average of 65 percent of consumers pays the service fee. The survey also showed that more than 73 percent of residents were unhappy with the service provided.

"The residents really have no other choice, but to refuse to pay for the fees. However, the police asked for money on behalf of the company. They even put handcuffs on my neighbors. They are not criminals!" Wang said with anger.

No other alternatives

Wang Dong, deputy director of the Enforcement De-

partment of Beijing Chaoyang People's Court, said anybody who disagreed with the judgment could appeal to the upper-level court, rather than violate the law.

"We reviewed the case last year, and the court forced the property managers to decrease the service fees by five percent, considering the quality of services. However, some residents still refused to pay for the fees, so the company sued them in court," noted Wang.

According to Wang, the company won the case, and the court announced that the residents should pay for the fees. "If residents were unsatisfied with the decision they could have appealed to the higher court within 15 days. However, they did not do that. Therefore, they have to pay the fees."

Wang said that some residents threatened to prick officers with scissors during the enforcement of the court decision. "Some scolded the police, and some tore up the subpoena. Anybody who showed indifference or met the enforcement with violence should be punished," he added.

Qiu Xuan, a Beijing attorney, suggests residents pay the service fees first and then appeal to the court if they are unsatisfied with the service. "The most important thing is to collect sufficient evidence," he said.

The experts' view

The Press Office of Beijing Chaoyang People's Court revealed that cases involving conflicts between residents and property managers increased from 194 to 1,898 in the last two years. "It was hard to mediate in these types of cases, and it was difficult for the police to enforce the judgments," Wang stated.

Li Dongmin, director of the Social Survey Institute of China, said that the upcoming revised Property Law may help find a solution to the long-term conflict. "The recent contracts were unfair to residents, because they did not stipulate clearly the rights of resident," he said.

Li suggests that the resident committee should be entitled to choose their property managers and pay their salary directly to the company. "The committee should have the right to control the service fees and supervise how the money is spent," he added.

Wei Xiaodong, a Beijing lawyer, said that the contract should stipulate clearly the rights and obligations of residents and property managers before the two sides sign an agreement.

However, some residents recently failed to distinguish clearly the relationship between developers and property managers.

"Take the noise problem for example, residents refused to pay for the service fees because developers did not install the sound insulation equipment. However, it was not the property manager's responsibility, the residents should ask for the compensation from the developer," he added.

Wei said residents should find out which party is responsible for each issue in order to solve the problem and to avoid future conflicts.

Tiger Leaping Dam creates controversy

By Chu Meng

The state-level hydroelectric dam project to be built on Tiger Leaping Gorge was brought to a halt last October. The project was the first national construction project to be influenced and changed by environmentalists in order to protect the local environment. The project has sparked controversy both at home and abroad.

However, a panel of scientists and hydroelectric construction experts released a study last week, that supports the construction and criticizes the conclusions and advice by the environmentalists. The study claims the advice was extreme and based on a biased point of view. Furthermore, the report goes on to say that the advice was based on false scientific work, and labeled the group 'false environmentalists'.

No need for protection

Fang Zhouzi, a representative of the panel, whose work focuses on finding flaws or faults of other people's scientific views or activities, said, "after four-days of research and study my colleagues and I feel totally cheated by those environmentalists, by their blind and provincial love for their homelands. This is why the controversy of the Tiger Leaping Gorge is under the spotlight again, and the reason I disagree with their views because the area has vital geographic characteristics making it suitable for the dam."

Running between Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Haba Snow Mountain in the northwest of Yunnan Province, Tiger Leaping Gorge is among the world's deepest canyons. Confined between the narrow cliff walls, the torrential Nujiang River roars over rocks through its 18-kilometer gorge.

"It is an ideal place to build a hydroelectric dam," Fang said, "not only because of its steep landform, but also because of the need for economic development and the undeveloped lifestyle of the local minority people there."

Fang pointed out angrily that the construction would not destroy the ecological system on mountains along the gorge, because the system has already been destroyed by the minority people living in the area.

"We were misled by the photos the environmentalists showed us. The wild brush along the gorge is totally gone due to the traditional way of planting crops. For generations, farmers burn down a patch of wildwood and ploughed it for three to five years, and then abandoned it. Then, they burn down another patch for fertile soil. It keeps weakening the thin and extremely fragile layer of soil, and does little to develop the economy."

A shortsighted view

Wang Yongchen, president of an environmental protection NGO, China Green, and an editor at China People's Radio, said, "the project is extremely harmful in environmental terms, and has received no environmental evaluation report from the National Environmental Protection Bureau and no long-term stable seismic inspection report from the National Earthquake Administration. They can not make any conclusions from only four short days of so-called research, because any verifiable and convincing scientific work would require long term studies."

Wang continued, "The dam is not feasible, for it will bring about serious and irreparable problems to the local ecological and geological systems, as well as the social culture of the region."

"Firstly, the raised water level caused by the dam will damage the local ecosystem and destroy a wide range of species. Secondly, by sharing their universal values and keeping their own unique culture and ethnic identities, local ethnic groups have been co-inhabiting this area and creating a unique culture together. This is one of very few successful models for such peaceful coexistence in a multi-ethnic region. If the dam is built, a series of immigration-related problems will emerge which will eventually ruin this deep-rooted harmony," said Wang.

Economic development is key

Lu Youmei, scholar from the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the President of Chinese National Committee on Large Dams, said, "We should not simply say yes or no. First and foremost we want to help develop the economy and improve living standards. I don't agree with the environmentalists' view that we should do nothing just in order to maintain cultural and ecological diversities. That is protection for the sake of protection. They said an alternative way for economic development is the promotion of environment friendly tourism along the Nujiang River. However, don't they know that it will still harm the wildwoods and plants?"

According to Lu, on the one hand, building the hydroelectric dam has a high construction cost, but a low natural resource cost, because the steep cliffs and rushing water are both great elements for such projects. There would be no need for further investment. On the other hand, the development of ecological tourism has a low construction cost at the very beginning and can reap benefits in a very short period of time. However, it needs continuous investment to maintain the infrastructure such as roads, cable paths, hotels and garbage recycling centers. In fact, the pressure on the local ecological system brought on by the tourists will not be less than the construction of a hydroelectric dam.

Overseas Perspective

The Guardian comment, November 3

Enraged citizens taking to the streets is one of the recurring themes of French history. But the latest bout of rioting in the suburbs of north-east Paris is a toxic and very modern mixture of alienated ethnic minority youth and heavy-handed response by the security forces. The trouble began in Clichy-sous-Bois when two teenagers being chased by police were accidentally electrocuted. No one else, mercifully, has been killed. But six nights of violence have seen volleys of stones and petrol bombs and cars burned on several other sink estates where unemployment is high, petty crime rife and the police are seen as the enemy. It is all serious enough for Jacques Chirac to have issued an appeal for calm from the Elysée yesterday.

Not for the first time, the unrest has highlighted tensions between wealthy big cities and their grim ghettoised banlieues, home to immigrants from the Maghreb and West Africa who have never been fully integrated into French society and have become an underclass for whom hopelessness and discrimination are normal.

It has also raised troubling questions about the government's role, and especially of Nicolas Sarkozy, chairman of the governing centre-right UMP

City of fights



The violence lasted for six nights in north-east Paris.

AFP Photo

party and the man most likely to challenge Mr Chirac for the presidency in 2007. Mr Sarkozy's position as interior minister has put him at the centre of this story, and there are suspicions that he is happy to use it in his battle against the prime minister and rival presidential hopeful, Dominique de

Villepin. Mr Sarkozy is one of few French politicians prepared to tackle the twin issues of immigration and integration - he has some good ideas about positive discrimination and state funding for mosques - even if he has too much of an eye on the extreme right and the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

His language is always forthright - one of the reasons why he is such an interesting and media-friendly politician. But it has been intemperate too. Using the word "scum" to describe the rioters was incendiary, especially after an earlier controversial comment about "cleaning up" crime in other urban areas.

Overreaction can have grave consequences, and the minister was right to admit that a police tear-gas grenade mistakenly hit a mosque. It is heartening too to hear of Muslim community elders ordering youths home. France's mood is not revolutionary but it is ugly. Mr Sarkozy talks of "zero tolerance" of crime, but in the long term it will take equal opportunities in education, housing and employment to keep the riot police off the meanest streets.

(The above article does not represent the views of Beijing Today.)

For visa info, call the new hotline

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Municipal Public Safety Bureau (PBS) has started offering a hotline service for the Exit and Entry Management Section. Now customers can call 84020101 to get quick information on visas.

The new hotline provides service 24 hours a day in Chinese and English. Citizens who want information on going abroad or expatriates with questions on visa extension can call for information.

"With an increasing number of local Chinese traveling abroad and foreigners visiting China, it is necessary to provide the hotline service", said Wu Hao, a PSB public relations staff member.

"Local citizens used to say they could not get through because the line was always busy," Guo Ji, a policeman from the PBS, said. "But with the new hotline system. The waiting time has been shortened to two minutes."

The new hotline system can answer 14 calls simultaneously. The sys-

tem consists of eight live receptionists and four automatic operators.

The computer-controlled system will record all the hotline requests in order to insure the operators are giving correct and accurate information. During the first week of the new hotline operation, Wu, from the PSB, said that the number of calls was increasing. "The average number of the calls is over 2300 per day. Each receptionist has to answer at least 250 phone calls every day."

Approximately 40 percent of the phone calls are foreigners seeking visa

information.

"Foreigners mainly called to ask for information on extending visas," Wu Hao said. "Different kinds of visas have different requirements. Normally, the receptionists can help answer these questions."

For local Chinese, Wu said, "The heated questions focus on visa validity for going to the US and Indonesia."

Guo Ji, PSB, said that the hotline's peak hours are 10:00-11:00 am and 2:00-3:00 pm. He suggests customers avoid calling at those times.

Limited use of fireworks for Spring Festival

By Jackie Zhang

Beijing residents will be allowed to set off limited types of fireworks and firecrackers during the upcoming Spring Festival 2006.

Setting off fireworks and firecrackers was banned in 1993 by the city government for safety reasons. This year, the Standing Committee of Beijing People's Congress revised the Regulation for Forbidding Setting off Fireworks and Firecrackers. Setting off fireworks and firecrackers is no longer forbidden, but is limited.

Citizens can buy approved fireworks and firecrackers in appointed markets five days before the Spring Festival.

According to the national

safety and quality standards for fireworks and firecrackers, they are divided into four categories.

"Firecrackers of C and D categories can be set off in Beijing," said Han Jinxing, the director of the Beijing fireworks and firecrackers safety management office. "Generally speaking, the A and B categories are not allowed to be set off in the city, unless it is by professionals under special conditions," explained Han.

All the fireworks and firecrackers will be labelled by the Beijing Supply and Marketing Cooperation Organization. There will be a telephone number for customers to call to find out if they are legitimate.

Details of airport remodeling project revealed

By Jackie Zhang

Beijing Capital International Airport has revealed details of the 2 billion yuan spent on rebuilding and improving the airport this year.

A new high-speed road connecting the airport and the city is being constructed. It will run from the airport's freight road and extend to Jingshun Road and the airport's north passage, and finally connects to the eastern Sixth Ring Road.

Thirty-two service desks have been added in the domestic and international areas. At present, eight domestic boarding gates and six international boarding

gates are under construction and are scheduled to open next year.

A new bus lane leading to the parking lots will alleviate the traffic problems in front of airport entrances. This project will be finished before the Spring Festival early next year. An underground walkway will be built under the T1 station building.

By the end of this year, the newly-constructed parking aprons for special and official planes will be finished, which will provide six more 747 airplane gate positions. After the project, there will be a total of 20 official gates.

Poor public reaction to first aid training

By Zhou Ying

Ordinary people are being encouraged to participate in the First Aid Training Center course by simply picking up the phone.

The Beijing Red Cross announced that one out of eighty residents in Beijing would get the first aid certificate by the end of 2008.

"One out of a hundred people in Beijing should get the related certificate by the end of 2006, and the number will increase before the 2008 Olympic's," said Director Huang Zhongyu.

Huang said that in order to meet the large demand for training the center has begun to take measures to attract more local residents.

The two-day classes, which cost 160 yuan per person, have only attracted 50,000 participants since the training center was founded in 1998.

"Most of the trainees were organized by companies and private citizens rarely call us," a receptionist from the training center said. Training will cover how to deal with sudden dangerous situations, how to revive heart and lung functions, and how to deal with trauma before doctors arrive at the scene.

"We will conduct an exam at the end of the course and those who pass will get our junior rescue certificate. The exam is composed of two parts: theory and practice," Huang said.

Guan Shashan, an official from the Beijing Center for Diseases Control and Prevention who took the class last year, said that she never expected it would be so useful.

"The training center provided us with a lot of models to practice on, and I think those who do not have any basic medical knowledge can handle simple situations after the training," Guan said.

Huang complained that a lack of public awareness blocks development. "We have contacted the fire and public traffic departments to provide training for the staff. However, they said they would have to consider it after finding out the cost."

Another course, aimed at ordinary people, will publicize rescue knowledge in 18 districts in Beijing.

"We will train the residents for free to spread basic knowledge," Huang concluded. The telephone number is 67563401.

Designers sue Palace Museum over new logo

By Chu Meng

Three designers are suing the National Palace Museum for what they claim was an unauthorized use of their designs for the new museum logo.

The case began this Monday afternoon at the Second Intermediate People's Court of Beijing.

Three individual designers filed lawsuits against the administrative body of the National Palace Museum (Forbidden City) concerning the logo, which used the shape of a Chinese character meaning 'Palace'. The three plaintiffs are Zhu Yanyue, a teacher from Anhui Industry University; Xiang Baiping, chief designer from Huaxia Advertisement and Decoration Company in Shanxi province; and Hong Qingqi, a designer from an advertisement company in the city of Xiamen.

Zhu Yanyue said he sent his work using the character of 'palace' to the administrative office this January, and that he received no response. "On July 18, when the results came out, I knew that I did not win the competition. However what made me mad was the new winning logo looked exactly the same as my work, both in the way of meaning expression and the form of art. It has obviously infringed my intellectual property rights. Therefore I want them to pay me 50,000 yuan compensation," said Zhu. Xiang and Hong are filing the suit for the same reason.

However, the 'Ideal Originality Designing Company', the winner of the design of the logo for National Palace Museum, that the final winning version was designed independently by the company itself, and contained not a single ele-

ment from their designs.

An officer from the National Palace's Information Center, who declined to give his name, said "the logo only used the shape of that character. It is a simple character that everyone knows. Therefore, the similarity between the new logo and their designs is a coincidence. Moreover, we never even received the three plaintiffs' works in our bidding pool."

Both the plaintiffs and the museum said that they hoped the matter could be settled out of court.

The Palace Museum began its search for a new logo design last June, and 2,788 submissions were received from around the world. In April, six candidates were published on the museum's website. The winning design came out to celebrate the museum's 80th birthday on October 10.



A shop assistant showcases a dragon-head bugle to customers.

Photos by Cheng Tieliang

A Tibetan store opened in Beijing



Unique Tibetan craftsmanship

By Jackie Zhang

A Tibetan shop selling Tibetan medicine, liquor, handicrafts and accessories has opened at Di'anmen in Xicheng District.

Tangbogudao is a group of chain stores selling Tibetan products that was set up by Xincheng Group in Qinghai Province. The store also sells agricultural products.

Tibetan accessories, such as earrings, bracelets, rings, and necklaces, sit alongside accessories from countries like Nepal, India and Brazil. Tangbogudao also sells wine made from highland barleys, yak charquis, and Tibetan knives. The store is decorated in Tibetan style and all the staff are dressed in Tibetan clothes.

"The products are provided by around 300 enterprises and companies in Qinghai and Tibet. The Qinghai government has supported us in collecting various products," explained Wang Shixian, the board chairman of the Xincheng Group.

Tangbogudao is the name of an ancient route through Tibet and Qinghai provinces in the Tang Dynasty. "We named the store after this ancient route because we hope more people can find out about Tibetan culture and products," said Wang Shixian.

Poor security in budget hotels

By Jia Ting

Security measures at Beijing's budget hotels are at an unacceptably low level, according to Beijing Tourism Administration (BTA)

A security check by the BTA revealed almost 500 security problems in the 100 hotels that were examined.

The inspection focused mainly on hotels that are below the three-star level. Over half of the examined hotels had poor check-in security. At some reception desks it was possible to check in with a fake ID card.

Other problems included: unclear evacuation signs, disabled security systems, broken smoke detectors, and a lack of security guards. Hotel employees were blamed for the negligence. At some individual hotels, unregistered strangers could get into a guest's room without being questioned by security guards or other hotel employees.

The BTA will re-examine these hotels at the end of November. Hotels who do not resolve these issues will face fines or other sanctions.

University students! Your country needs YOU!

By Jia Ting

Beijing universities are giving financial incentives to students who join the army, with extra incentives for those who distinguish themselves during their army service.

This year's army recruitment drive started on Tuesday.

Beijing University, Tsinghua University, and Beijing University of Technology announced that if their students receive Third Class Service Medals during enlistment they will be entitled to exam-free admission to graduate studies once they finish their service.

Beijing University will also return paid tuition and accommodation fees to students once they are recruited; if the students receive two Excellent Soldier titles, they can switch their major exam-free upon their return. Beijing University of Technology will give a 50 percent discount on tuition fees to all enlisted students for their future studies and exempt students with one Excellent Soldier title or Third Class Service Medal from all tuition fees.

According to the municipal recruitment office, the in-university recruiting scope has extended from last year's 17 universities to all 72 universities this year. The municipal government has fourteen favorable policies aimed at encouraging undergraduates to join the army.

On the first day of the recruitment, many university students were gathered at the recruiting center. According to the recruiter, over a thousand students had already signed up for the army service, three times last year's number.

"I'm so happy that the recruiting service opened on our campus. Being a soldier has always my dream since I was a little girl. Now with these favorable policies, I can fulfill my dream and in the meantime won't delay my studies," Lu Liwei, a student from Beijing University of Technology, said excitedly.

Lawyer sues CNC for regional discrimination

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Beijing branch of China Netcom (Group) Company Limited (CNC) is being sued for regional discrimination.

Mr Cheng, a lawyer working in Beijing, was told that he must have a Beijinger as his sponsor when he applied for a local telephone line at his home, because he does not have a Beijing Hukou (resident identity book).

Although he obeyed the requirement, Mr. Cheng still felt that he was discriminated against because he is not a Beijinger. The Beijinger sponsor item in CNC's regulations violates equality rights of customers.

The Court of Xicheng District has begun investigating the case.

BJ'S LOVE & HATE

Will Beijing's manners get Olympic 'red card'?

By Dan Cody

Beijing's Mayor Wang Qishan has made the headlines again for saying he's still worried that his constituents aren't ready for the Olympic Games in 2008.

He's right.

You can observe socially unacceptable public behavior all around you - from general loudness, to people littering the city's streets, and spitting whenever and wherever they like. It's still a major civic headache, just as it was when the city was selected for the games back in 2001.

In fact, the mayor says, getting the vital infrastructure ready for the games isn't the capital's biggest problem -- it's improving Beijing residents' manners.

Remember the hoopla over the World Snooker Open held here last March? That's when international competitors left town with a bad taste in their mouths after crowds attending woefully misbehaved. Chinese pro Ding Junhui won the event over international star Stephen Hendry.

But Ding had a distinct advantage, since the crowd that attended the event distracted his opponent with unruly behavior. Though repeatedly warned by officials, many left their mobile phones on, and ringers constantly went off while fans chatted loudly. Others shot flash photos. None of the international pros could believe the chaotic situation. You can bet World Snooker won't be back to Beijing for a while.



Visitors not showing respect for a tourist attraction

Photo by Li Feng

What's worse is that Beijing sports audiences have become notorious for this kind of behavior. They often boo and curse players at events ranging from soccer to basketball, displaying manners that have tarnished the city's reputation.

I've read news reports that Wang and other leaders are so

worried that thousands of foreigners set to arrive in 2008 will get the wrong impression that they have started a sports etiquette campaign among residents. So far, more than 200,000 pamphlets have been distributed promoting good behavior. Cartoons and short soap operas are being shown to

try to educate people on the value of behaving at sporting events.

I'm not sure that'll be of much help. There's just a general lack of civility in Beijing that ought to be addressed, and it goes far beyond the topic of sports.

Take the folks who light up cigarettes in elevators? What's with that? Should I really have to breathe their smoke if I'm riding all the way to the 25th floor? How about those who walk their dogs and allow them to leave turds behind on the sidewalk? Do you really want your "one child" stepping in dog poop? Don't even get me started on people who run red lights or drive through crosswalks. It's all a big joke.

I'd say it's time for Wang to enlist the help of an army of oldsters throughout the city - you know, all those folks sitting on benches or wasting time playing checkers. A little community-oriented policing in a society that still seems to have reverence for its elders would be nice, and it would put some retired grannies and grandpas to work on the streets doing something meaningful.

I'd have them provide "yellow card" warnings and citations to those who don't heed social norms. A few fines doled out now will help folks learn to give a damn about their city - and if they don't - at least they'd respect those of us who do.

It could also save Beijing from receiving a "red card" in 2008 when the eyes of the world will be watching.

Nostalgia for the old Silk Market

By Niall O Murchadha / Jia Ting

The old Silk Market (*Xiu Shui*) was one of those special Beijing experiences. Going down the long, narrow alley was like a new member of a street gang "running the gauntlet". Buyers, both friendly and pushy, would try and entice customers with their wares. It would take only a few seconds for them to size up their potential client, and decide if they would be able to outrageously overcharge. The experience was raw but real. Today, the new Silk Market is warm and spacious. There are a wide selection of goods available, and the sellers are still trying to get the best price. But will people look back fondly on their trip to the new Silk Market? This type of development helps people to shop, but does it make a cultural contribution to the city?

Cathy Cook, England. Nightlife Editor, *Time Out*
"I think it's a shame that it's not outside. I think it has lost some of its charm now that it is inside, although the sellers are still as pushy as before."

Andrea Gabel, Canada. Cafe Manager, *Lush*
"The old Silk Market was a little alley and difficult to get around. The new one is better because it is bigger and has more stuff."

Rauf Tahir, England. Teacher
"The new one is probably more expensive. Now it seems like a more normal place like anywhere else. It is more structured and more organized, but I prefer the old atmosphere. The sellers are not tugging on your shirt as much in the new one."

Chris Bensch, Texas, USA. Teacher Tsinghua University

"I really like the old one. It was close and exciting, and I really liked the place at the back where you could get food. It was much more of a cultural experience in the old one. You could meet more Chinese people there. The new one is like any mall anywhere."

Alan from the U.S.
"The new market is definitely better than the old one, especially when it rains. The prices are competitive and the quality is not bad. I just got my ski suit here."

Lori Feddy from Canada
"The market is as fantastic as usual, but the haggling is really exhausting. Anyway it's fun."

Doris from the U.K.
"I only have one complaint about the market: the smell in the restroom is terrible. It almost made me throw-up when I entered. They need to clean it more often, wash, wash, and wash. Besides that, everything seems fine."

Community

Watch out! Frisbee!



Photo by Zhu Chunyu

By Lynda Monsoon / Zhen Ying

It was all started with a pie. William Frisbie, an American baker, opened his own company, Frisbie Pie Company, in 1871. Soon the Frisbie pie became popular on the campus of Yale. Students then discovered it was fun to throw the round foil box for the pie to watch it spin smoothly in the air. To avoid hitting passers by, the one throwing would shout "Frisbie!" loudly. And a sport was born.

In 1998, a group of American Frisbee fans set up the Beijing Ultimate Frisbee Club. Now there are over two hundred members from several countries. The club holds matches twice a week: at 8:00pm each Wednesday in the gym of the Kerry Center; and from 2:00 - 5:00pm on the meadow of Shunyi International School on Sunday afternoon. Each team has seven players: two women and five men. The club also attends international Frisbee competitions.

Michelle Tang, from New Zealand, manager of an American Trade Company, is both the director and a team leader of the club. "I never knew that Frisbee could be so exciting and crazy: the high speed, the connection between team members, and the fact that female players can compete!"

Twenty-three-year-old American Jocelyn Ross is one of the best players in the club. She has perfect Frisbee skills and speed. "My life is all about Frisbee. The first thing I do, when I go to a new place, is to look for the local Frisbee competition!"

Wang Ying, 29, is a swimming coach in Shunyi International School. She has been a club member for almost a year. "What impressed me most were the members. According to them, a Frisbee player should be a 'crazy' guy. We can dress as weird as we like when playing, and celebrate victories in the most interesting ways!"

Escape the noisy city to run in the meadow in the sunshine, enjoy the excitement and fun brought by playing Frisbee. Meet people and share the same passion while keeping fit! What are you waiting for?

Yen's Fetish Party rotten to the core



Smiles hide the shame of being seen in duplicate outfits at the Yen.

Photos by Ruggero Rossi

By Gareth George

Beijing's biggest Halloween party was the monster your grim nightmares might have warned you of. The fetish night at the Yen club's cavernous warehouse was packed to the rafters with some 2,000 ghosts, ghouls and sexual deviants.

Big name local DJs and MCs, including Usami and Webber, provided beats from the kind of frighteningly muscular sound system only a location in the wilds of the 5th Ring could accommodate.

But while the 60 Yuan advance ticket price wasn't bad, it was an icy claw in the face to queue up in the cold to pay 100 on the door. Worse torment was to come, with beers a vindictive 30 Yuan - bottled water, 20.

That the 'VIP area' - which consisted of some blue sofas - was the only area with real seating was one thing. But only a true villain could have condemned so many to numb bums on cold steps with a further 100 Yuan to enter.

Add to that the cloakroom

queue invading the dance floor, walkways, and bar area like some ravenous tumor. Seems with their Machiavellian attentions focused elsewhere, the organizers neglected to find a system of coat retrieval better than blind chance. Still, at least that didn't cost extra.



The Yen's toilets: amusing

Shimmering, by contrast, was Centro's 2nd Anniversary bash the previous evening. OK, so the tickets were 130 Yuan, but you got a mini bottle of Moet & Chandon champagne. And like everything at Centro, you get what you pay for.

With a fashion show by Max & Co (whoever they are) and jazz provided by the house band, the atmosphere was nicely up-market, without being too much. Sometimes in Beijing's flashier events, you notice something that's been overlooked and it can spoil the whole thing, like finding a nice photo of yourself then noticing it's blemished by a prominent nose hair. Here, they pulled it off (the event...god.) Although the Caipirinhas weren't as good as usual. And I'm getting old.



Check mate. Photo by Andrew Wong

Relax in Shishahai



"What'rre you looking at?"
Photo by Andrew Wong



"Scenic, isn't it?"
"Yes, dear."
Photo by Yuan Dongping



"Where are my glasses? Where's the edge?
AAAGH!"
Photo by Andrew Wong

Photos provided by Beijing Foreign Cultural Exchanges Center / Beijing This Month Publication



Fishing and reading.
Photo by Andrew Wong

By Wang Xiaoyuan
In the latest 'top six city districts' in Chinese *National Geographic*, Beijing Shishahai is among the most beautiful. The water feeds the willows on the bank and is a haven for old Beijingers. This is where the east meets the west: Starbucks meets the traditional teahouse; pop music meets folk melodies; old men play chess and young scallywags bar-crawl. The place vibrates with noise and people, but its delicate charm will never fade away.



Trees don't go in for much rushing around.
Photo by Yuan Dongping



Origami: a decorative art
Photo by Andrew Wong



Night time is party time.
Photo by Andrew Wong



Rickshaws mimic the ringroad.
Photo by Andrew Wong

This page is looking for freelance photographers. Experience and professionalism are not a must. We want your own perspective and views about Beijing. If you have any work that may interest us, please contact sunming@ynet.com, or call at 65902523.

By Shelley Xie

In China there is a famous saying derived from a song: "I'd rather raise a dog than have a boyfriend." More and more women say that pets are more reliable than their male partners.

Every time friends introduce Lu Juan, a pretty magazine editor, to a new man, she will open her purse and show them her 'boyfriend' – a big chow chow. On some BBS you can even see messages like "I wish my puppy Daodao would turn into a boy so that I could marry him." My net friend Mumu confessed that she loves dogs more than men. "It's kind of weird, but I keep asking myself whether I should find a boyfriend or raise a dog."

According to the latest release of the British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), about 36% of people love their pets more than their mates, and 86% of people love them more than their friends! Actually, people unconsciously hope that their mates will understand and get along as well with them as their pets do.

A recent example is Katherine Tanney in Austin, Texas (US), a lonely married woman whose husband was neither "inclined to rush to my aid nor offer his support when I really needed it," as she wrote in her article Love Me, Love My Dog. All Right, Love My Dog.

She finally got divorced and became "one of those women

who lives alone and goes in and out of relationships while depending on her dogs for long-term companionship and tactile comfort."

"At a young age I had learned that needing someone was the quickest way to disappointment and pain, so I had become self-sufficient and strong, which both attracted the kind of men I liked and protected me from our inevitable parting. With dogs, there was no such problem," she said.

Such a reliance on pets has led some young women to become 'moms'. Whether its feeding, exercising, bathing or going to pet shops and clinics, modern women take great pride in being called the 'mom' of these adorable pets.

Vivian Chow, the famous Hong Kong singer and actress, recently released the book *My Kitty Son Zhou Huibao*, sharing stories about her life of bringing up her 'son' – a cat, since she retreated from the limelight seven years ago. She said the experience of looking after her cat has taught her how to be a good mother. In addition, she joked that as long as her boyfriend gave her another cat, she would marry him.

Women are sentimental creatures who need others to gently share their feelings. Pets are part of such 'others'. "In terms of raising pets, women outnumber men – partly because they need them, partly because they can tolerate the messy daily care for these little animals, which men can't," Wang Zhi, a psychiatrist, said.

Wang also noticed the phenomenon that more and more young women say their dogs are their boyfriends. He calls it "fashionable and elegant sorrow," which is a "modern disease" in city life.

But I believe it's only a natural choice. When the boys are complaining that girls are so fussy and tough that they have to handle them like a pet, girls are struggling: to learn how to be vulnerable in love, to be able to show the naked underbelly, and to build trust that will be neither smothered nor starved of devotion.

Now you – boys or pets?

Pets in vogue

By Shelley Xie

Rollersofa

By Elizabeth Paige Smith, Kamran Kiani (US)

The Rollersofa is a designer dog bed. It also might help you keep your own seat on your sofa! For easy mobility it features two lockable wheels. The frame is upholstered in easy-to-clean leather. The cushion set includes a reversible base cushion and two matching pillows.



Pearl Button Cardigan

By Companion Road (US)

Wouldn't your dog be fashionable in this pretty pink outfit? She would be the envy of all her canine friends. Made from merino wool with touches of black velvet.



Hepburn and Famous

They love Yorkshire terriers

By Shelley Xie

Approaching famous people, especially those in show biz, sports and fashion, can be very difficult for ordinary folks. But at 6-7 inches tall and weighing only 7 pounds, Yorkshire terriers have never had such difficulties.

With its ultra long, fine and silky coat, the Yorkshire terrier, nicknamed Yorkie, has become an inseparable friend of big names.

Audrey Hepburn and Mr.

Famous

The most famous Yorkshire terrier must be Audrey Hepburn's Mr. Famous, who appears in her films *Love in the Afternoon* (1957) and *Funny Face* (1957). She got Mr. Famous as a birthday gift from her husband Mel Ferrer when she was shooting *Love in the Afternoon*. "It's the best present I have ever received!" she exclaimed.

Then Audrey's life changed. When shooting was over nurses, waiters, and elevator attendants – everybody in the Hotel La Pinede in France – prepared for the arrival of Mr. Famous. Quickly following in Audrey's steps, he eventually walked onto the street and straightened up his head, as if to show the beautiful red ribbon on his neck.

Making two movies was a tiring experience for Audrey, and only her pet, with his big round eyes and unselfish company, could put her in a good mood.

Rudolph Moshhammer and Daisy



Moshhammer and Daisy

When it comes to fashion Daisy, the canine companion of the late German fashion designer Rudolph Moshhammer, must be the most stylish Yorkie in the world. When her beloved owner was alive, she was his arm accessory at fashion shows and parties. As a result, she is the dog famous in Germany for her luxurious trappings, such as Louis Vuitton carrier and Rudolph's Rolls Royce car.

His friends confessed that because of Daisy, Rudolph felt very content and happy. Therefore, he left his luxurious home to his Daisy so she could stay in his villa in the suburbs of Munich, looked after by his former chauffeur.

Venus Williams and Bobby

Bobby, the Yorkie of the US tennis player Venus Williams, is the luckiest dog in the world.

"He travels everywhere with me," she said "except England or any of England's old colonies (where dogs can not travel without lengthy quarantine procedures.)" While enjoying trips around the world, Bobby also witnessed several of his owner's victories. She believes Bobby brings her good luck in competitions. In return, Venus gave Bobby a gem-encrusted gold collar as prize for his silent support in the audience.

Demi Moore and Louie

Demi Moore wants nothing more than to find her missing pet dog Louie. It unexpectedly went missing from her Hollywood home, which made Demi very upset. She has offered a large reward for his safe return and has also put posters, written in both English and Spanish, all around her neighborhood.

Now she can only remember Louie from photos. "She is actually a fashionable girl, who was so fascinated by my colorful dresses," Demi admitted. "She would not leave home without her chic straw carrier."

LOVE YOU.

DIRTY MY DOG?



Postmodern cat habitat

By Kamran Kiani (US)

The Cabitat is designed to provide the discerning cat and its owner with an alternative to the standard carpet-and-cardboard feline furniture. It provides a cozy, cave-like interior that appeals to a cat's love of private spaces.



Cy-purr mouse

One touch of the paw or one meow, and the mouse springs to life. Zig-zagging in unpredictable directions, the mouse will flash its eyes and taunt your cat with its supersonic sounds. For extra fun, place it in a paper bag or under a blanket.



Masta long travel boots

By Masta (UK)

Winter is coming, so are you ready to put on some chic boots? If you have a horse, why not get her an early Christmas present? This set is made of tough 1200 denier polyester, with a soft fleece lining for comfort.



Eva Solo Bird Table

By Claus Jensen, Henrik Holbaek (Denmark)

It's time for birds to dine in style. This bird table only dispenses food when necessary, as well as keeping it dry. The stainless steel rod can be easily pushed into the ground, the black platform made of hard rubber. The glass container can be filled with up to 170 fl.oz of bird food, such as sunflower seeds.





The Valkyrie

A ride with the Valkyries

The Valkyrie

Three days after the first evening of *The Ring of the Nibelung* (*Das Rheingold*), the first day of *The Valkyrie* grabbed the audience by the throat.

And despite nearly four hours performance time and two intermissions the audience didn't resist its grasp. The theatre seemed to have been lulled asleep while the music played. Like the flicking of a switch, the silence of the finish brought them to their feet. The theater was filled once more with the crackle of applause.

Long separated twins Siegmund and Sieglinde fall in love, unaware that both are Wotan's (king of the gods) human children. Wotan's wife, the goddess Fricka, tells him that Siegmund has violated Sieglinde's marriage vows and must die. Wotan orders Brünnhilde, his Valkyrie daughter, to help Siegmund's lawful husband to defeat Siegmund in battle. Brünnhilde betrays her father and tries to help Siegmund, but Wotan furiously intervenes, killing Siegmund. To punish her, Wotan puts Brünnhilde to sleep on Brünnhilde Rock inside a ring of fire that only a true hero would dare defy.

As perhaps the most famous act of the Ring Cycle, *The Valkyrie* has several musical highlights. Two famous sections are in this act. *Magic Fire Music* and *Ride of the Valkyries*, which became famous for its appearance in the Vietnam War movie *Apocalypse Now*. It's easy to see why it was chosen. The orchestra threw down sonic thunderbolts, scorching the stage and creating a three-dimensional battlefield. Only your eyes might have persuaded you the Valkyries were never there.

This act focuses on the tangled emotions that arise in incestuous love. While the preliminary evening presented the conflict between love and power, here love was the weapon against law and order. Characters became tangled in crimson rope to symbolize their emotional struggle. The acting was first rate too – never more touching than when Siegmund told the Valkyrie he would never abandon his twin sister. It was impossible to doubt the love between them.

A performance of this complexity doesn't work without top artists. Gerhard Siegel as Siegmund, Cheryl Studer as Sieglinde (the twins) and Ks. Heinz-Klaus Ecker as Hunding (Sieglinde's husband) were superb. Their voices cooperated perfectly with the orchestra and made a deep impression. They received the most ardent applause as the curtain fell.

The giant killer squeaks

Siegfried

The second act relates how Siegmund's baby – Siegfried – is rescued and raised by Mime, a Nibelung dwarf. Mime wants Siegfried to grow up to slay the giant Fafner and reclaim the magic ring. After Siegfried finally triumphs, a bird guides him to Brünnhilde Rock, where he battles through the ring of flames to reach the sleeping maiden.

Siegfried is the only human hero of the Ring Cycle. His act, staged on the third day, was a little disappointing.

Problems arose in the action and the plot. The actor playing Siegfried was Gerhard Siegel, the same one who played Siegmund in the previous act. But his voice

was unrecognizable, sounding weak and remote. Were there problems with the microphone? Others in the audience were yawning their way through the 'action'. No wonder they saved their applause for his bride, Brünnhilde.

It seemed ridiculous that Brünnhilde turned so suddenly from dismissal to love for Siegfried. Wotan's sudden abandonment of his kingship to the rule of human love also seemed weird. He was defeated immediately after scolding Siegfried for his rudeness. The imaginary fierce fight never happened. You felt Siegfried's path to success was there for the taking – where was the struggle?

Except for a little confusion in terms of content, I was still satisfied with the music. The warm timbre of the stringed instruments interspersed between the dialogue relieved

me greatly. Though there was no conspicuous 'classic' moment, as in *The Valkyrie*, the music still bears the indelible Wagnerian stamp: full of glory and mystery. A surprising find was the dialogue between Siegfried and his guardian Mime. It was so witty and many burst out laughing. The act culminated in the duet between Siegfried and his bride. The audience couldn't wait for the conclusion and they immediately applauded when they finished the last note.

The sets for this act brought more new ideas. The young Siegfried rode a toy bicycle and held a teddy. Mime was dressed like a housekeeper. Poor Alberich looked like a hairy monkey hunched in an iron drum. The sets made good use of light and made the stage multi-layered so the audience could step into the fantasy.



Siegfried

Ring in the newbie

An opera novice takes in Wagner's epic

By Wang Shuang



Twilight of the Gods



Photos by Wang Xiaoxi and Huang Liang

Fade to black

Twilight of the Gods

The clock struck midnight. The curtain fell. In Poly Theater on Tuesday, the ten-day journey of the Ring cycle came to an end.

The Ring was at its zenith. Everything was bigger. More characters on stage, more complicated storylines. But it was a more integrated story and was easier to follow than previous days.

This fourth drama witnesses the final reckoning of the gods. Siegfried gives the ring to Brünnhilde as a memento of their love. Hagen, son of the evil Alberich, devises a plot to kill Siegfried and steal the Ring from Brünnhilde's finger. Siegfried is given a

potion that erases the hero's memory of Brünnhilde and makes him lust after Gutrune, Hagen's half-sister. The besotted Siegfried agrees to kidnap his former love as a bride for Gutrune's brother Gunther, and seizes the ring from Brünnhilde. Brünnhilde denounces Siegfried's betrayal and tells Hagen of his weakness. Hagen drives his spear into Siegfried's back. But when Hagen reaches to steal the Ring from Siegfried's corpse, the dead man's hand shakes him off, and Brünnhilde appears on her magic charger. Seizing the ring, she lights a funeral pyre and rides into the flames, immolating the corrupt reign of the gods forever. Phew!

Compared to the careless success of *Siegfried*, this last drama was far more significant. The ring strictly obeyed its curse: anyone who touched it would die soon. Brave heroes and innocent goddesses bearing love were not safe from the power of the Ring. The only solution was its destruction. In the four and half hour performance, the hall was filled with wickedness. Multitudinous instruments roared when Brünnhilde set the fire to suggest sins were atoned for and redemption was at hand.

Brünnhilde was the star of the night. The audience experienced her misery and anger through her voice. When she finally awoke to realize she had to return the ring, you could feel the load lifting from her shoulders. Again, her performance won the warmest cheers.

To be honest, the set did not help much in our understanding of what happened at the end. According to the story, the Rhine bursts its banks and drowns Hagen. I didn't even realize he was dead! Nor could I visualize the torrents of water supposedly scouring the landscape. All I saw was Hagen falling over out of sight. The long-awaited fire to burn Valhalla was so weak that it might have struggled to light the candles on a child's birthday cake. The music boiled as always, but it made the visuals seem more ridiculous by contrast. Anyway, thanks to an excellent performance by the Nuremberg Philharmonic Orchestra and a bunch of brilliant opera artists, the audience were left touched by the Ring. Hopefully, that doesn't mean we're all cursed now...

Bosson: Love me or not

By Pan Hao

Swedish pop singer Bosson has set his sights on Beijing.

"I heard this orchestra, Scandinavian Strings would tour China and asked them whether Bosson could perform with them on the stage. They agreed," said Jean Hsiao Wernheim, Bosson's Chinese-Swedish manager during the singer's rehearsal in Beijing University's PKU Hall, where his recent performance took place.

Bosson (real name Staffan Olsson) started singing at six and grew up in the countryside some 20 kilometers south of Gothenburg. Though young, he discovered artists like Baby Face, Boyz II Men and Jodeci who influenced his own music.

"Now I'm listening to Coldplay, Keane and Saybia a lot, and might go that direction," Bosson said. His music has been called funky hip-hop, combining light techno beats and a Euro-dance club style, making traditional ballads more modern and accessible.

Bosson made his name with the single *We Live* in 2000 when it became a hit in Europe. He was invited to write *One in a Million* for the American movie *Miss Congeniality* (2000), which appeared on his eponymously titled debut album. A year later, his second album *Right Time* came out. His next, 2003's *Rock Star*, will be reissued for China with a bonus track, *Love me or not*.

"We are quite sure after Bosson has been successful in Europe, America and South Africa, he has the ability to capture the Beijing market," said Qiu Zhiqiong from Poly Artist Management, who is in charge of Bosson's Chinese promotion.

To appeal to China, Jean and Bosson chose the famous Chinese song *Love me or not* as a kicking brick. The song was composed by the rock band Zero.

"Bosson was not sure how the Chinese audience would react to the song, but I insisted we do it," said Jean. Surprisingly, Bosson's new track has already caught the ear of his fans. Requests for it are pouring in online.

In his debut performance in China last Sunday, Bosson sang *Love me or not* and *One in a Million*.

The audience immediately recognized the familiar melody and erupted. Bosson's version is different: less rough but mellower and poppish. He encouraged the audience to clap along to the beat. If you enjoy tension and sophisticated passion, Bosson may not be to your taste. His songs are smooth, easy listening ballads, while his voice is on the treble side: sterling yet mellow.

Bosson will meet band members from Zero, and will perform a few songs in W bar in Sanlitun Nanjie as part of his promotional program this Saturday.



Bosson's Chinese debut

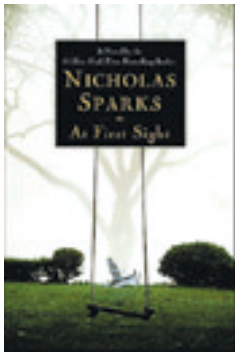
Photo by Tian Yufeng

Do you know of a good show, exhibition or other cultural event in Beijing? Please let us know at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Culture" in the subject field.

Bestseller booklists 1st week Nov.

by Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers
1. *At First Sight*, by Nicholas Sparks



(The young couple from *The True Believer*, who are now expecting a child, receive a disturbing message.)

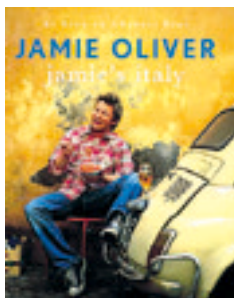
2. *Knife of Dreams*, by Robert Jordan
3. *Consent To Kill*, by Vince Flynn
4. *The Lincoln Lawyer*, by Michael Connelly
5. *Blue Smoke*, by Nora Roberts

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *A Million Little Pieces* (*Oprah's Book Club*), By James Frey
2. *Healthy Aging: A Lifelong Guide to Your Physical and Spiritual Well-Being*, by Andrew Weil Md. (America's best-known complementary care physician offers a convincing portrait of aging as a natural part of life that can be active, productive and satisfying.)
3. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman
4. *The Truth (with jokes)*, by Al Franken
5. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

UK – The Sunday Times Bestsellers

1. *Jamie's Italy*, by Jamie Oliver



(Jamie travels this famously gastronomic country paying homage to the classic dishes of each region and searching for new ideas to bring home.)

2. *Sheer Abandon*, by Penny Vincenzi
3. *The Journey*, by Josephine Cox
4. *Sharon Osbourne*, by Sharon Osbourne
5. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *Asterix T33 – Le Ciel Lui Tombe sur la Tête* (*Asterix T33 – The Sky Falls on His Head*), by Goscinny and Uderzo
2. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (*French Version*), by J.K. Rowling
3. *Dictionnaire Culturel en Langue Francaise* (*French Language Dictionary*), by Alain Rey
4. *XIII, T17 – L'Or de Maximilien* (*XIII, T17 – The Gold of Maximilien*), by Vance and Van Hamme
5. *Le Souffle des Dieux* (*The Souffle of Gods*), by Bernard Werber

Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers

1. *Der Scharm* (*The Crowd*), by Fran Schatzing
2. *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* (*German Version*), by J.K. Rowling
3. *Asterix plaudert aus der Schule* (*Comic Book*), by Albert Uderzo and Rene Goscinny



4. *Illuminati* (*Angels and Demon*), by Dan Brown
5. *Born to Cook II*, by Tim Malzer

China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (*Chinese Version*), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Decipher The Dream of Red Chamber*, by Liu Xinwu
3. *Eat Your Head Off – 60 Recipes for Lazy People*, by Saba
4. *Brother*, by Yu Hua
5. *Don't Just Do What You Are Told To, Do What You Need To*, by Bob Nelson

Capote film reviving sales of *In Cold Blood*

Capote the movie, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman

By Dong Nan

USA Today reports that the new film *Capote* is reviving sales of Truman Capote's 40-year old book, *In Cold Blood*.

Vintage has gone back to press three times with its movie tie-in edition. There are 130,000 books in print, which feature cover art from the original book and a sticker with a photo of Philip Seymour Hoffman, who stars as the flamboyant author in the film.

When first published in 1965, *In Cold Blood* was an instant sensation. Capote called his book, based on the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family, a "non-fiction novel." The movie, which opened on limited release September 30, examines the author's relationship with the killers.

Capote the movie, however, is not based on the novel, but on *Capote: A Biography*, the critically acclaimed work by Gerald Clarke, first published in 1986 and also seeing a resurgence in interest. Publisher Carroll & Graf has printed 30,000 movie tie-in editions according to editor in chief Philip Turner. He expects an additional printing soon.

In Cold Blood is currently No.15 on Amazon's bestseller list.

Throughout his career, Truman Capote remained one of America's most controversial and colorful authors, combining literary genius with a penchant for the glittering world of high society. Though he wrote only a handful of books, his prose styling was impeccable, and his insight into the psychology of human desire extraordinary. In his childhood, Capote became friends with Harper Lee, who portrayed him as Dill in her world famous novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

He also wrote *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1958), which was adapted to film in 1961, starring Audrey Hepburn.

In Cold Blood: "Until one morning in mid-November of 1959, few Americans—in fact, few Kansans—had ever heard of Hol-



comb. Like the waters of the river, like the motorists on the highway, and like the yellow trains streaking down the Santa Fe tracks,

drama, in the shape of exceptional happenings, had never stopped there." If all Truman Capote did was invent a new genre – journalism written with the language and structure of literature—this "non-fiction novel" about the brutal slaying of the Clutter family by two would-be robbers would be remembered as a trail-blazing experiment that has influenced countless writers. But Capote achieved more than that. He wrote a true masterpiece of creative non-fiction. The images of this tale continue to resonate in our minds: 16-year-old Nancy Clutter teaching a friend how to bake a cherry pie, Dick Hickock's black '49 Chevrolet sedan, Perry Smith's Gibson guitar and his dreams of gold in a tropical paradise—the blood on the walls and the final "thud-snap" of the rope-broken necks.

Cloning as an art form

By Jade Charles / Gareth George

In his new hit book, *The Possibility of an Island*, Michel Houellebecq brings together New Age mysticism, human cloning and some real life parallels to question what it is to be human.

As always with Houellebecq, the themes – especially the sex – garner controversy, which seems incredible at this stage of his career. The author has always affected a blasé attitude toward any criticism while keeping himself firmly in the limelight and selling huge amounts of books. Clever man.

The book tells the story of Daniel, a middle-aged humorist, film director and writer of one-man shows. Daniel lets the reader into his world through his cynical views on women, life, sex, and the events of his life: chiefly his two great love affairs. But the book is not just written for the reader. It's the story of 'Daniel 1', and is the text all his future 'clones' read 2,000 years in the future to understand what it was to be human.

Daniel's diaries discuss his meetings with a sect – not dissimilar to the real life 'Raellians' who recently claimed they had cloned a human, and whose real



life leader, Rael, was befriended by a real life Houellebecq.

Later chapters introduce later 'Daniels', the clones, who live like hermits, have no emotions, no sex or physical contact and communicate entirely by computer – they even photosynthesize rather than eat. In the annihilated earth they inhabit, they are supposed to be perfect, and yet they find it hard to understand Daniel and his world of the senses.

Houellebecq is very clever – he writes sentences which snipe

and claw at the things in society that wrinkle his nostrils. Despite and because of this, the book itself doesn't read smoothly and often the constructions seem artificial. But this is nothing new from Houellebecq. Nor is the unpleasant nature of Daniel's reflections. He's a classic Houellebecq character – sarcastic, blasé and deeply cynical. His thoughts on ageing women are particularly savage. Sexual obsession is central (as always.) Daniel believes the only interesting parts of life are the teen years. Sex is only pleasure and after 25 we are left with only regrets. But with little new in terms of characters or themes, your own regrets might lead you to wonder if you've bought a cloned book. Maybe Houellebecq's fans would say that's the point – the genius being that the master satirist treads the same ground with the same characters in the same boring way. But sometimes Houellebecq thinks he's Lovecraft (and of course, he wrote a famous essay about him.) especially in some of the 'traditional' sci-fi turns in the epilogue. It doesn't work. And although he's often funny, you'll be in no mood to forgive after sitting through the same old vitriol that went before.

One in three buys books to 'look intelligent'

Books are the new snobbery, according to a survey in UK. Driven partly by pressure from incessant literary prize shortlists, more than one in three consumers in London and the south-east admit having bought a book "solely to look intelligent", the YouGov survey says.

It finds one in every eight young people confessing to choosing a book "simply to be seen with the latest shortlisted title". This herd instinct dwindles to affect

only one in 20 over-50 year-olds.

The British Airports Authority and the travel website Expedia, which jointly commissioned the poll of 2,100 people as a prelude to their own travel books prize ceremony, say it suggests snobbery is no longer just a matter of keeping up with the Joneses.

Yet the results indicate that "reading" is a relative term. When asked about specific titles, only one in 25 people turn out to have

read the novel chosen as the best in the Booker prize's 25-year history, Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* – and half these had failed to finish it.

Only one in 100 had read Andrew Levy's *Small Island*, picked earlier this month as the best of all Orange prize winners. Not a single reader had yet opened this month's Booker winner, John Banville's *The Sea*.

(Source: Guardian)

Review

By Wang Chun

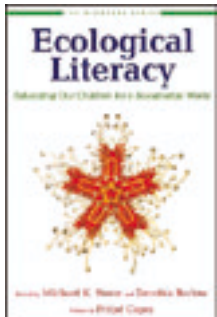
Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of Everyday Life



By Lynne Truss, Profile, 228 pages

Lynne Truss was as infuriated as any of us by the obstacles of daily living. But she had an answer: write about it. Famed for waging war on the nation's grammar, Truss' new book *Talk To The Hand* certainly looks and feels like a stocking-filler. Rudeness, Truss's new worry, is a trickier subject than incorrect punctuation, which her last immensely successful book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* was about. An intolerable feature of modern life, in her view, is that "the people who ought to be serving us" have knocked off, and we are left to make all the effort ourselves. In the book, Truss laments the boorish behavior that she believes is a source of pride to some in today's society. (*Spectator*)

Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World



Edited by Michael K. Stone and Zenobia Barlow, Sierra Club Books, 275 pages

A collection of meditations, exempla and exhortations for a new pedagogy, *Ecological Literacy* brings together voices both young and venerable to propose and enact the alternative to what Maurice Holt calls the "curriculum strait-jacket" of educational systems modeled on the same fast-food outlets that serve their lunchrooms. The editors, both of whom are affiliated with the book, not surprisingly find models for a renewed educational emphasis on the study of human interaction with natural systems. The book contains half a dozen good examples of place-based, values-driven ecological education. Some you can use as models, others you can simply join. (*San Francisco Gate*)

The Kitchen Diaries



By Nigel Slater, Fourth Estate, 400 pages

As a cookbook, the book succeeds brilliantly. Throughout this book, which describes a year in Slater's culinary life, he makes his kitchen come alive with smells and noises. As a kid, he remembers the dour fug of his stepmother's kitchen; as a cook, he yearns for eating experiences to be intense and meaningful, not just rote feedings from tins and packets. He lusts after "a crab sandwich by the sea on a June afternoon", and "a slice of roast goose with apple sauce and roast potatoes on Christmas day", and "hot sausages and a chunk of roast pumpkin on a frost-sparkling night in November". Each of these things conjures up an image: groups of cheerful people having fun. (*Guardian*)

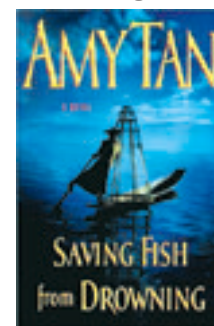
Film Writing and Selected Journalism



By James Agee, The Library of America, 748 pages

A would-be poet and somewhat bohemian journalist, Agee became *Time's* regular, albeit anonymous, movie critic in September 1942; he began reviewing for *The Nation* three months later, and kept both jobs through summer 1948. It was during Agee's watch that Hollywood peaked and began its precipitous post-World War II slide. Without undue anxiety, Agee noted key trends the French would dub "film noir. He was the most "American" of American movie critics. He cut his teeth on silent movies and left his heart in Pickfair. His best piece, "Comedy's Greatest Era," celebrated slapstick in *Life*; his *Nation* swan song was a passionate appreciation of D.W. Griffith that angrily refused to recognize a racial problem in *The Birth of a Nation*. (*Village Voice*)

Saving Fish From Drowning



By Amy Tan, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 474 pages

Amy Tan's new novel, *Saving Fish from Drowning*, is proof that we can still retain a sense of humor about things that have recently fallen into the too-serious-for-joking column: hostages, repressive regimes, even tropical diseases. This is the story of a clumsy and unwitting group of American tourists from San Francisco who find themselves the involuntary "guests" of a tribe of Karen people in Burma, or Myanmar. Tan's travelers, who range from a neurotic hypochondriac to the debonair, self-involved host of a show called *The Fido Files*, fight and flirt among themselves. Tan has admirably tackled the unique challenge of building a novel based on the real-life incident and turning the resulting tale into a commentary on the ironies of modern life. (*Washington Times*)

The Real Life of Anthony Burgess



By Andrew Biswell, Picador, 400 pages

The novelist and polymath Anthony Burgess was a man of unearthly powers and prodigious output. He was also, it seems, a bit of a fabulist. Twelve years after his death the legend has begun to fade, but Andrew Biswell's lively and intelligent biography should certainly reignite our interest. As the first Burgess biography of any consequence it is long overdue. Throughout the book Biswell does an excellent job of sifting the evidence and sorting out the inconsistencies. As a biographer, Biswell is diligent in constructing the bare bones of a life. His triumph, though, is more profound. Simply, he has shed great light on a writer, his personality and his work. (*Telegraph*)



Today's guest: Mr. Alessio Drera, chef at Gualtiero Marchesi's restaurant, invited to Beijing by the Shangri-La Hotel

By Qiu Jiaoning

Milan became a mecca for restaurateurs from all over Italy after the Second World War. The city has always revered the culture of good eating, and both the Bagutta Prize and the Cooking Academy were born here.

Milan is an industrial city that has always prospered throughout history, so Milanese cooking tends to be robust and substantial. It also happens to be one of the most elegant styles of cooking you will find in all of Italy. Cream and butter are used to finish off dishes, truffles are readily available, and soft creamy cheeses are used instead of drier grating cheeses. There is none of the emphasis on tomatoes that one sees in the rest of Italy.

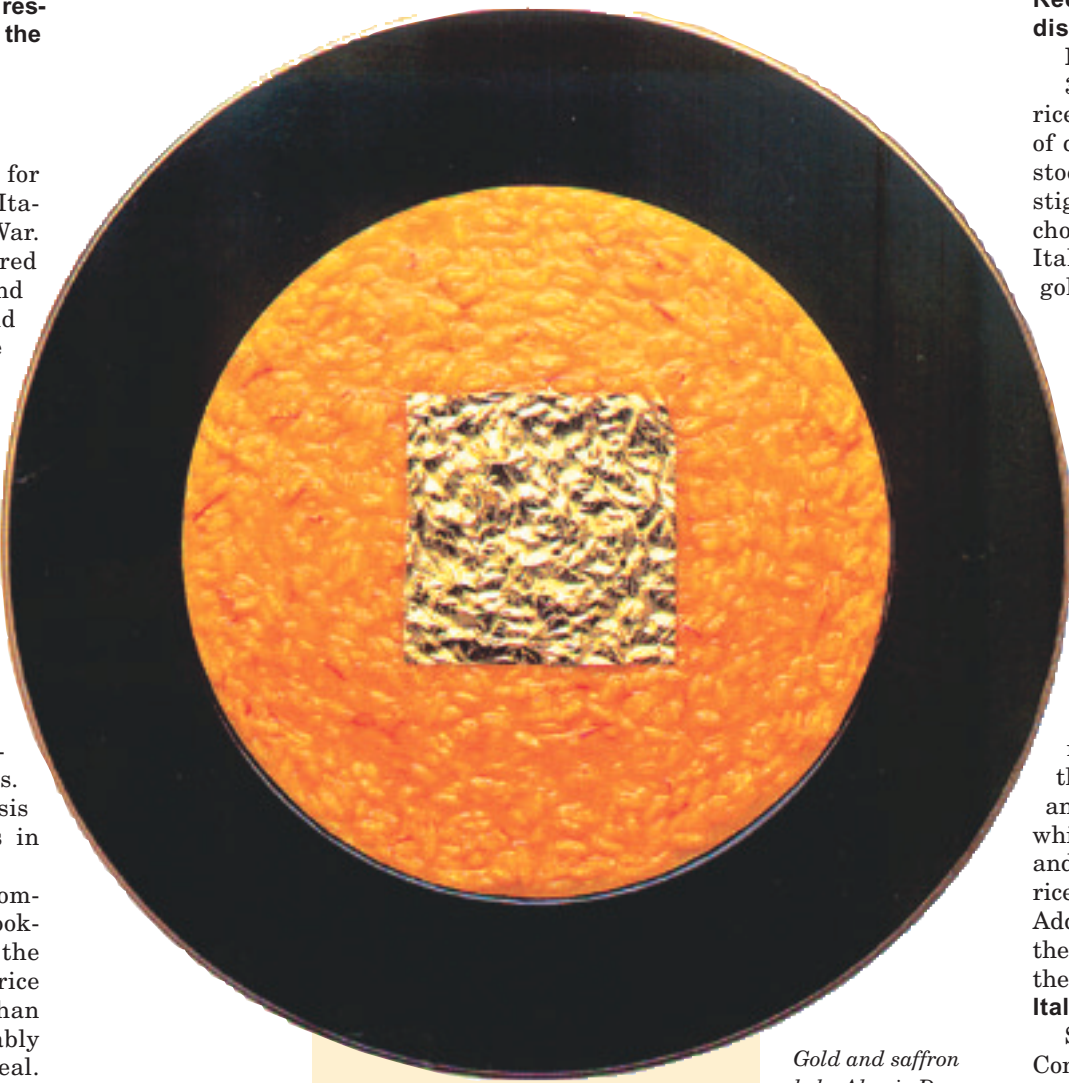
Although not typical Lombardy cuisine, Milanese cooking has been influenced by the surrounding regions. More rice is consumed in Lombardy than pasta, and cheese is invariably served at the end of the meal. Milan is well known for her cheeses, the most famous being Gorgonzola, a creamy blue cheese made from cow's milk. Butter substitutes olive oil, and heavy cream, unknown to the rest of Italy, are often used to enrich dishes.

'Rice, gold and saffron' is the name of a famous dish created some fifteen years ago in Milan. In the ensuing years, both the dish and its creator, Gualtiero Marchesi, have been praised for their artistry and creativity, to the point of being enshrined in museums. 'Rice, gold and saffron' is a visually striking dish. The serving plate is always wide and flat, with a white center and a broad black rim edged in gold. In the middle of the plate, covering the white part, Marchesi places brilliant yellow risotto alla milanese, a rich concoction of rice cooked with saffron, stock and marrow. In the center is draped with a square of edible gold leaf. It is a work of extraordinary design, simple yet forceful, with a balanced presentation that is beautiful and appealing to the senses.

Wine goes well in other risottos, such as in the white rice of Piedmont origin. Parmesan cheese is used in preparing the bell eggplant known everywhere as eggplant *alla parmigiana*.

Milanese drinks are very orig-

Milan: where even food is fashionable



Gold and saffron made by Alessio Drera

Other foods made by Alessio Drera



Lamb chop stuffed with black truffles



Salad of scallops, ginger and pink pepper



Fillet of salmon, red wine sauce and Savoy cabbage

inal: the *barbarjada* (chocolate and coffee), the *rossumada* (egg shake, sugar and white or red wine), or the various *bavarois* (made with tea and liquor).

While Milan has a cosmopolitan atmosphere, it still has strong rural influences. The Po River Valley runs right through Milan; both corn and arborio rice is grown here. In addition, you have the proximity of the Swiss Alps, which supplies excellent beef and game. These are just some of the ingredients that make up the classic dishes of Milan.

Traditional Milanese cooking is made up of simple dishes and perhaps for this reason it fell out of vogue during the 1980s. It has only recently returned to popularity.

Recipes for a typical Milan dish – Rice, gold and saffron

Ingredients:

300 grams Italian Maratelli rice, 60 grams butter, 1 deciliter of dry white wine, 1 liter meat stock, 1 dessertspoon saffron stigmas, 1 dessertspoon onion chopped fine, 30 grams grated Italian *grana* cheese, 4 pieces gold leaf, salt.

Directions:

Melt 10 grams butter in a saucepan and when warm add the rice and stir so it absorbs the condiment. Moisten with 1/2 deciliter of wine and allow to evaporate. Add the stock a ladleful at a time, so that the liquid barely covers the rice. Continue till cooked then stir in the saffron. In another pan place 100 g of butter and brown the onion, add the rest of the wine, reduce the liquid to half, add the remaining butter in flakes and whip until smooth. Pass the white butter through a strainer and use it to moisten the cooked rice together with grana cheese. Add salt to taste and spread on the plates, with the gold leaf at the center of each.

Italian Food Promotion

Supported by the Italian Trade Commission, Shangri-La Hotel is holding the Authentic Italian Culinary Promotion from Wednesday to Monday. Based on the recipes of 3-star Michelin Master Chef Gualtiero Marchesi, guest chef Alessio Drera from Italy, is preparing array of wholesome, authentic Italian dishes, without the euro price tag.

The hotel's buffet provides food with flavors from different parts of Italy. One of the starters is a salad of scallops with ginger and pink pepper, a popular dish in Venice. Fillet of salmon, served with a red wine sauce and Savoy cabbage, is a typical Bergano main course.

Another course, stuffed lamb chop with black truffles, from Norcia, can fill the stomachs of the hungriest of guests. For dessert, diners can choose panettone pudding with marsala. The chef also brings Italian wine to the buffet station, but the wine is not included in the price.

All dishes will be featured at Cafe Cha's buffet stations, and staff are on hand to answer questions about cooking style and ingredients.

Where: Café Cha, Shangri-la Hotel **When:** lunch and dinner time, Wednesday to Monday **Tel:** 6841 2211 ext. 2715

Average cost: 200 yuan and above

Italian Food Promotion



Ham



Cheese



Wine



Dessert



Pasta



Olives

Photos provided by Alessio Drera

Veronica's Recipes

Chili con carne: spice up your life

By Veronica Smith

Contrary to popular belief, chili con carne is to Mexican food what the fortune cookie is to Chinese food: they were both invented in the US. Regardless of its true birthplace, chili enthusiasts take their favorite dish very seriously. There is even a Chili Appreciation Society that holds chili-making competitions using the same model as tennis tournaments!

Some chili recipes are legendary: Elizabeth Taylor supposedly ordered take-out chili from a Hollywood restaurant while filming *Cleopatra in Rome*, and Clark Gable ordered it from his deathbed, perhaps his last supper. The exact ingredients of that "to die for" chili are a mystery, but you can use this basic recipe to create your own legendary chili recipe. Invent a fa-

mous Chinese version of a non-Mexican American food and your fortune may be in the chili not the cookie!

Ingredients: 1 large onion (chopped), 2-3 cloves of garlic (chopped), 1 pound of ground beef, 1-2 pounds of peeled tomatoes (chopped), 1 small can of tomato paste, 1 cup of water, 3-5 cups of canned kidney beans, spices such as oregano, paprika, ground cumin, chili peppers, black pepper and salt.

Directions: In a flat bottom pan saut' the onion until golden, add the ground beef and stir until cooked. Now add the green peppers, tomatoes, water and spices cover and simmer on low heat for at least 1-2 hour. Then add the kidney beans and cook for 30 more minutes longer. It's that easy!



Photo by Liu Xiaojun

墨西哥辣味牛肉

原料: 1个较大的洋葱切成丝, 2-3瓣大蒜, 1磅碎牛肉, 1-2磅削去皮并切好的番茄, 1小罐番茄酱, 1杯水, 3-5杯罐头四季豆, 调味料可包括牛至, 辣椒粉, 小茴香粉, 辣椒, 黑胡椒粉和盐。

做法: 在平底锅中煎炸洋葱至金黄, 加入碎牛肉并搅拌至将其炸熟。再加入番茄, 水和调味料, 盖上盖子温火慢慢煮1-2小时, 加入四季豆再煮30分钟。

Translated by William King

Enjoy the fruits of the sea, don't miss next weeks recipe for mussels!

“英名天下”

——量身定做取洋名!

您有一个**超绚室IN**的英文名字吗?
 您的英文名字适合您的**性格**吗?
 您的英文名字有**异性缘**吗?
 您知道**流行**的英文名字的含义吗?
 您知道那些时尚名字背后的**故事**吗?
 为您**量身订做**取洋名,一切改变从
 “英名天下”开始!

男士:发送 **M** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 **9638036** (移动用户)
 女士:发送 **W** + 姓名的汉语拼音 到 **9608036** (联通用户)

如:喜欢时尚和潮流的辛小麗,发送
 “wxinxiaoli”到9638036,就可得
 到适合她的时尚英文名字:含义为月
 神的Cynthia或Cindy,代表人物辛西
 娅·尼克松,主演了热门连续剧《欲
 罢不能》(SEX And The City)而获得
 本届艾美奖最佳女配角的女明星。
 Cindy是月神的昵称,代表人物超级
 名模辛蒂·克劳馥(Cindy Crawford)

“今日英语时尚”

——潮流英语随你“尚”!

别因为英语流利就沾沾自喜哦!
 欧美最时髦的英语怎么说?
 最搞笑的俚语怎么讲?
 发送 **YU** 到 **9638**,
 不做洋文“老夫子”,
 要当时尚英语人!
 热门英文宝库芝麻开门啦,
 同志们,跟我“尚”!

18元/月

北京青年报 BEIJING TODAY

How to get the best people for your enterprise

By Lo Pinrou

"To achieve sustainable development is the dream every enterprise pursues, but the problem in China is getting the right people." Said Dr. Bian Huatuo, Vice President of the Jiangsu-based Yuandong Group, at the recent Taihu Human Resources Forum.

Most private enterprises can't attract top professionals and so have to learn modern management concepts and methods by themselves. Bian thinks it's hard for these enterprises to provide social status, full social welfare and other advantages enjoyed at established companies.

Dr. Bian talked about new ways to recruit talent:

Scientific standards

Yuandong has dozens of profession-

als, but using them well is a headache. Insufficient use of talent is waste, while over use will set obstacles for others. Only proper use equals efficiency.

Bian and his team wanted some way of matching an individual to the right role. Next, they wanted a scientific means of evaluating performance. Thirdly, he needed a competition mechanism based on achievement.

Complementary combinations

Nearly every enterprise has to decide how to mix new employees with old. The answer is to give the right job to the right person.

Experience, sophistication, creativity and aggression are all necessary to an enterprise. Long term employees need respect and recognition, newcomers need space to develop. In this way,

senior staff become guardians of all that's good in a company, while new staff exploit new directions.

Study brings creativity

Modern mass production needs a certain kind of worker. Where to find them is the problem. Bian thinks you can create them by encouraging study. Study brings competence and creativity, and through it sustainable development.

Private enterprise in China used to focus on production, rather than the workers. Since 1995, Yuandong has been building what it calls a multiplayer, tri-dimensional and omni-directional education system.

'Multiplayer': Senior managers take part in important forums and investigate abroad; middle level supervisors study for MBAs over time; front line workers up-

grade technical skills.

'Tri-dimensional': A combination of sending staff to study abroad and inviting experts to deliver lectures at home; providing full-time and part-time study opportunities and education with or without degrees.

'Omni-directional': Learning new knowledge and upgrading techniques, while fully developing one's personality.

Rewarding talent

An enterprise should continue improving its internal environment to give the workers and professionals space to develop.

However, to keep talent, it needs encouragement. Awarding achievement works best. And many entrepreneurs like to link senior staff to the future of the company through share options.



Recruiting qualified professionals is tough for private enterprises in China. Photo by sina.com

Too short to be seen as smart?

Make a better impression with these simple tips

How do other people see you? Do you feel like the 'real you' comes across to people? Using these techniques, you can change people's perception.

If you feel you're not being taken seriously enough:

- Consider a regular geometric haircut, no longer than shoulder length. Studies show that women with shorter, regular cuts are thought to be smarter.
- Flouncy clothes give the impression of disorder while fitted skirts or trousers signal a more professional and organized personality.
- Do high heels increase IQ? For the sake of a first impression, they might: taller women are seen as more intelligent. Smaller women, more nurturing.
- Studies show women with firmer handshakes are seen as more confident, assertive and intelligent, and make more favorable impressions.
- If strangers banter with you, you may be perceived as too easy going. Don't make eye contact unless you want to engage with someone.
- Disclosing too much personal information too soon can make you seem neurotic or self-absorbed. Self-disclosure is an art: start gradually and take your cues from the other person, matching their stories with your own.
- However upset or elated you are, starting a conversation about your own emotional state makes you seem self-obsessed and neurotic.

If you feel shy:

- All social first encounters can be awkward. Whoever starts the conversation going - even if it's with a forgettable comment - wins a social premium of gratitude from others.
- Matching the conversational speed of the person you're talking to makes you seem kind, likeable, intelligent and confident.
- Popular people listen, seem genuinely interested and make small comments that don't interrupt but show appreciation.
- Learn to be a conversational 'winner'.

"How do you know Mark?" You: "We work together." Here is the same dialogue with a winner: "How do you know Mark?" You: "I met him on my first day at work. I will be eternally grateful to him for showing me the two most important things in the office - the toilets and coffee machine. How about you?" The second story gives information in the form of a short story (good - builds rapport) and solicits an answer (even better).

- Good first impressions are about meeting others' needs. People are described as 'charming' not by showcasing their talents, but by encouraging others to showcase theirs.

(Source: Psychology Magazine)



Most of the fresh Chinese graduates do not know how to behave in their first job interviews. Photo by sina.com



Alan has been exploring his PR career in Beijing for a decade. And he is always busy. Photo by Zhou Shuren

"There's a new Kahn in town!"

By Magic Parsons

Alan Kahn is the first in line to explore ways for China to communicate with the world. He's also a first rate father and the first to volunteer for charities.

Q: What would the first line of your Bio be?

A: Alan has over 10 years of experience practicing corporate communications in Washington DC and Beijing, assisting the world's top multinationals to effectively communicate with their Asian audience.

Q: Is it true you were first in line on the first day the first McDonalds opened in Beijing?

A: Yes, it was when the big McDonald's opened on the corner of Chang'an and Wanfujing where Oriental plaza is now. Some fellow students and I got up super early, (or maybe we didn't go to sleep after partying the night before...it's all kind of hazy now), and biked to the entrance.

Nobody was there except for some street sweepers. So we all sat in front of the door and eventually fell asleep. A few hours later, a couple of Chinese guys came bolting up and stood right at the front of the door. Sure enough, by the time the press, the dignitaries,

and the American executives showed up, the guys at the front were getting all the attention, saying they stayed in line all night to be first. There is a business lesson in there somewhere.

Q: Any other firsts?

A: Sure. As public relations professionals, my colleagues and I have undertaken many projects that were firsts for China. Some events even broke records and involved foreign CEOs, presidents, and world-renowned movie or sports stars.

Q: What is it like having a mixed race baby?

A: I don't really think of my son Eli as 'mixed'. (Even though I hear the word 'hun xue'r' - mixed blood - on an almost daily basis from people on the street, I have learned not to be offended or pay much heed, as people usually mean well.) My son is simply a beautiful boy. I guess people always try to put labels on things, like '3rd culture kids' or 'internationalized babies', as people do in the West. But to me, the world is no longer that small and everyone is international. What is wonderful is that Eli is a great boy and is healthy. Beijing, 2005: what a great time and place for him to grow up!

Q: Does the baby look more like you or your Chinese wife?

A: Unfortunately, he has my ears, but fortunately he already has more hair than I do. Luckily, he has my wife's eyes too, but I am worried his nose might grow to be as big as my honker.

Q: What are your goals?

A: To be the best father and husband I can be. Also, to treat others as I would like to be treated. These seem pretty straightforward, but they are often the hardest things to do.

Q: What are you doing in Beijing now?

A: Lots! One client that I am proud to assist is the Special Olympics, an organization that assists people with intellectual disabilities to lead productive lives through organized sports. It operates in over 150 countries, but China is its largest and fastest growing program. See www.specialolympics.org or www.specialolympics.org.cn for the East Asia site.

Q: What is your favorite Chinese word or phrase?

A: *Suan le!* (算了!) Kind of like the Italian-American 'forgetta bout it'. As in the movie *Donnie Brasco*, it can have several meanings.

50,000 Haiguais start business in Beijing

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Catchily titled TV series *Overseas Chinese Students Back to Beijing* saw its first screening October 27. It was produced by the Beijing Bureau of Personnel.

The series, comprising four sections, lasts 200 minutes. It tells of the struggle of nineteen 'Haiguais' (or 'turtles' - over-

seas Chinese students who return to China), who set up their own businesses in Beijing. The characters in the series include Deng Zhonghan, the president of Vimicro Corporation, one of the leaders in multimedia chips and solutions in China; Cai Rang, Vice Chairman of the board and President of Advanced Technology &

Materials Co., Ltd.

According to the statistics from the Beijing Bureau of Personnel, there are over fifty thousand people who set up their own businesses after getting overseas degrees. They have become one of the main catalysts for Beijing's economy.

Shanghai opens arms to talent

By Wang Xiaoyuan

To attract talents, the Shanghai Service Center for Talent will organize two recruiting groups to Beijing and Xi'an from November 17 to 22.

The groups are composed of Shanghai companies, academic organizations and top industries in the area

of the Yangtze River Delta. They prefer graduates from thirty top universities, including Tsinghua University, Beijing University, People's University, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing University of Post and Telecommunications, Beijing Institute of Technology, Xi'an

Jiaotong University, Xidian University (Xi'an University of Electronic Technology), Xi'an University of Technology, and Northwestern Polytechnic University.

Graduates with Ph.D, master or bachelor degrees with distinction are highly desirable.

Seeking Jobs

An international trade graduate from Dalian University of Foreign Language and the University of Exeter in the UK seeks a job in accounting, translation, business management and administration. Tel: 13488725926.

Chen Yurong, Ph.D of consuming psychology and master of economics, is looking for a better job.

Please visit my website at: www.chenyurong.com, or call me at: 010-6707 4612, 13651033853.

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners is seeking a job as a language teacher. layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Female, 44, looking for a job as an accountant, cashier, or warehouse manager. 13552517749, 6732 7217

Wayne Tian is looking for a job related to mechanics and electronics. He has good English speaking and listening skills. 13811508491, 65245508

Need Help with a Halloween or birthday party? Mr. Magic is an American bilingual Birthday Clown/Magician with ten years experience in China. Shows include: magic show, balloon, face painting, prizes, treasure hunts, interactive game and much more!

Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Contact Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

Ivan Young, a new graduate from Beijing International Study University, is looking for a job as a business interpreter, management assistant, public relations officer, HR officer, or office secretary. ivan1339@sina.com, 13811243074

Jenny Li, a graduate from the University of International Business and Economics, is looking for a job as an interpreter or an international trade salesperson. 13611163663, jennyli63663@2911.net

Female, Beijinger, 29, certificated public accountant, fluent in both written and spoken English, is looking for a full-time job related to finance, or a part-time job related to English. lily948@hotmail.com 83477009.

Vacancies

Three vacancies for full-time English teachers at a school in Qingdao, Shandong province. We pay for your accommodation and flights with a 4000 yuan salary every month: lijiaxuanxuan@sohu.com, 62552834, 13381392538

Shanghai Whyte Asia Pioneer Pharma is looking for instrumentation and automation engineers, chemical engineers, R&D managers, chemists, microbiologists, chemical analysts, process development chemists, chemical products sourcing executives, and web masters. Contact: Zhou at: 021-6120 3156

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)



Nordic Tour – Sweden (2)



Uppsala University: Tradition and Innovation

Guests:

Ms. Gunnel Wikman, Senior Administrative Officer, Student Affairs and Academic Registry Admissions Office;

Ms. Karin Carlsson, Head of the Information Office;

Mr. Thomas Fredengren, International Officer, International Office.

General introduction:

Founded in 1477, Uppsala University (UU) is the oldest university in Scandinavia. It is an international research university with many traditions in a dynamic and innovative environment. A 2005 study by Shanghai Jiaotong University ranks it 60th in the world.

Its ancient traditions, advanced knowledge, and experienced staff provide a foundation for today's operations. A portion of its excellent reputation can be traced to the work of earlier generations. Carolus Linnaeus, Anders Celsius, Olof Rudbeck, and Erik Gustaf Geijer are all renowned Uppsala figures. Eight Nobel laureates like Allvar Gullstrand and Kai Siegbahn have also helped make the university known all over the world.

As a member of the Nordic Center, UU is represented in China through the center in Fudan University, Shanghai.

Top-notch research

World-renowned research is pursued in three areas -- Humanities and Social Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy, and Science and Technology-across nine faculties (nearly 100 departments): theology, law, arts, social sciences, languages, educational sciences, medicine, pharmacy, and science and technology. Consolidation and collaboration are key concepts in the university's strategy for promoting quality development.



Music-practice makes perfect.

Photo by Alex Giacomini

Majors and semesters

Approximately 100 international students (exchange students and master degree students) come every year to Uppsala. It is famous for Life Science, Material Science, Renewable Energy and research on Democracy and Peace and Conflict Studies. It has 2 semesters (fall from September to January, and spring from January to June). It applies the ECTS credit system.

Culture and activities:

Uppsala students have access to the very latest research findings, but are also immersed in a living cultural setting that is built on several centuries of tradition, including a wealth of student activities. It boasts rich cultural and musical activities. The university's museums are havens for those wishing to enhance their knowledge of the world from the Middle Ages to the present.

Famous for its student life, Uppsala holds many traditional student activities.



Uppsala in winter

Photo by Tommy Westberg



Gunnel Wikman



Thomas Fredengren



Karin Carlsson

Photos by Uppsala University



Study break

Photo by Alex Giacomini

ties. There are 13 student nations (clubs) and a number of associations in the city, so it is easy to make new friends. Thomas Fredengren from the International Office moved from Stockholm 13 years ago to study and is still here.

Find more info at: www.uppsalastudentkar.se and <http://www.inter.uadm.uu.se/students.html>. For Alumni, please contact our alumni coordinator Johan Edman at: alumn@uadm.uu.se.

Application:

For the autumn term, students must apply by February 1 (master studies). For master programs, recommendation letters and work experience can be considered in the selection process.

Applicants must have an excellent command of English: a computer-based TOEFL score of at least 213, or a paper-based score of at least 550.

Scholarships and diplomas

In general, the Swedish Universities do not have any scholarships for Chinese students, but the China Scholarship Council or the Swedish Institute may be useful.

The 'Bologna process' (process of the creation of the European Higher Education Area) continues in Europe and UU is an active member. It is meant to give greater recognition to higher education and mobility among higher educated people.

Living:

Uppsala, which is divided by the River Fyris, means 'the town up stream'. The school is only 70-80 kilometers north of Stockholm. Students mostly use bicycles, but going by bus is very convenient.

Housing and accommodation

It is safe to live in Uppsala. Home stay is not common and the demand for housing is very high, which means students should prepare before they arrive. www.studentstaden.se (housing company) may be helpful.

Student accommodation costs between SEK2,700 to 3,300 per month. They have their own rooms but share a kitchen with 5-11 people.

Tuition fees and various expenses

A state commission is investigating the issue of fees. At the moment studies are free of charge but the living costs are quite high.

Students should be able to provide a budget of SEK6,300/month (probably to be raised to SEK7,500/month in the future).

Your financial resources should cover a monthly budget to include (all in SEK): food 2,000, housing 3,300, student fees, books 150, TV and newspapers 150, local travel 300, medical care and hygiene 200 and clothing 200.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

Ask Ayi:

Q: I want to go to Honolulu, a beautiful scenic resort! I wish to study in Hawaii Pacific University. What kinds of master or MBA courses do they offer?

— Rebecca8383

A: The commitment of Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) is to offer sophisticated graduate programs which are constantly refined, linked to strong career tracks, and integrated with high-technology tools. The following programs are offered at the Honolulu campus.

The MBA of HPU consists of nine core courses, four concentrated courses and/or elective courses, and two capstone courses. Entrance is possible in any term with a completion time of between 18 to 24 months.

The 12-month MBA offers 15 courses for students who have an undergraduate business degree or have satisfied the MBA prerequisites.

Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) offers information technology and systems design with 10 core courses, one elective course, and three capstone courses.

Both the Master of Arts in Human Resource Management (MA/HRM) and the Master of Arts in Organizational Change (MA/OC) offer 12 core courses and two capstone courses.

The Master of Arts in Global Leadership (MA/GL) is a program of 11 core courses, one elective, and two capstone courses. Two years of work experience is required for admission and intermediate competency in a second language is required for graduation.

Q: I'm an economic senior in a technology university and want to study an MBA in Singapore. Can you give me some tips like the costs, application procedure and work permit details?

— Flora Ma

A: It depends. Generally speaking, documents can help you win a scholarship of US\$1,100 to 1,400 per month for an MBA in Singapore. MBAs usually require TOEFL at least over 550 marks with a GPA, education degree certificate and work experience.

It usually costs US\$3,000 for annual tuition fees and around US\$400 for living expenses per month. Students are not allowed to work part-time there.

After graduation from university, anyone who has worked over 6 months can apply to stay.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

TOEFL rush & GRE reforms impact students

By Wang Xiaoyuan

As the ease of getting an American visa increases, Educational Testing Services (ETS) have accelerated its test reforms.

As a new TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) will be launched next year, competition for places to do this year's exam has been intense. The eleven examination centers of TOEFL in Beijing have no vacancies for November. Even the test in January next year is almost totally booked out.

Compared with the TOEFL, GRE (Graduate Record Examination) seems to be more flexible. To prevent cheating and encourage fair play, Educational Testing Services (ETS) will launch the brand new GRE system in October 2006.

The duration of new GRE will be extended from two and half an hours to four hours. Computer-adaptive evaluation will be abandoned to avoid the repetition of questions. There will be modifications in the three main parts of the examination. There will only be thirty exams held per year, as opposed to the previous ninety per year.

Study in Cornell University (1):

The demon drink on campus

By Gu Ji

Two months ago, one of my peers, Dan Pifro, a freshman from Cornell University, went missing. Dan was last seen in one of our freshmen dorms around 3am on a Sunday morning, heading off to a party in another dorm. For one week, his friends posted pictures of him everywhere, and searched every corner of our huge campus. Eventually, his body was found in a local river. It was a tragedy, but one I feel could have been avoided: he was apparently drunk and fell into one of the many gorges in Cornell's campus.

I was shocked when I heard the news, but felt even more sorry for him because of the cause of death. It is not easy to enter an Ivy League school. Just when Dan Pifro thought he had made it he died because of drink.

In America, you are not allowed to drink until you are twenty-one, but many simply do not care. Whenever there is a party there is alcohol, and in most cases the alcohol will be free, encouraging people to drink even more. In my dorm, due to its high proportion of international students, drinking problems seem far away. Yet my Peruvian friend from another

dorm told me that, as a Residential Mentor, he has to wait beside the elevators at night and carry heavily drunk students back to their rooms. All of the students are freshmen, aged 16 to 17 years old.

Thus it comes as no surprise that this year on Slope Day, when everyone comes to the Libe Slope to celebrate the last day of the academic year, Cornell started to provide beers to students in order to prevent them from over-drinking. An American friend told me that I'd better be mentally prepared for Slope Day because of the drunken behavior.

Later that night, as we entered his room, his roommate came in, with six people: girls and guys, Asians and Americans, all smelling of alcohol. Some of them just fell onto my friend's bed, muttering and rolling, some girls started to hug guys, while his roommate yelled at him with a bottle in hand: "Come on, baby. Have a drink!"

If you ask an American student about college life, he or she will probably tell you that alcohol is the most crucial part of it. For a girl like me who does not know how to drink, it is not so fun for me to join my American friends' parties, be-

cause most activities there depend on alcohol as the medium for conversation and communication. Well, do I regret missing the fun part of college life? To some extent, yes. But when thinking of Dan Pifro and the few students before him who also fell into Cornell's gorges drunk, I still think it is better to be safe than sorry.

Gu Ji is from Suzhou, China, and is an undergraduate student in Cornell University, US. She is on a journalism scholarship to study in Cornell and has just finished her internship with Singapore Press Holdings.

Paradise on sea



Sunset on the bay

Photo by Zhang Qianli

By Shida Zhu

If you're a sea angler, or you'd like to put winter out of your mind with a stroll along the beach, then Shengsi Islands, off the eastern coast of Zhejiang province, are the place for you. The average annual temperature is 15.8 degrees C. and the seasons are less uncompromising than the capital.

The archipelago is in the center of the Zhoushan, China's biggest fishing grounds, and right now is the heart of the late autumn and winter fishing season. With a concentration of fishing boats from six provinces and two cities at Shengshan, you will witness fishing, night and day, from the seaside boardwalk of Dayuwan.

Ancient heritage

Archeological studies show that humans lived on the islands as early as the New Stone Age. Stone axes, sickles and sites before the Warring States period were unearthed in the town of Caiyuan. Traces of human activity in the late periods of the Shang and Zhou dynasties were found at the foot of the Shizhu Mountains in Maguan town. The islands served as a stopover on the route trade to Japan and Korea. During the reign of Tianbao, Emperor of the Tang Dynasty, Monk Qian Zhen, on his way to Japan on a Buddhist scripture lecture tour, stopped over at Langgang and Dabai Mountains twice. Traces remain where Qi Jianguang, a general in the Ming Dynasty, fought against invading Japanese pirates.

Beaches

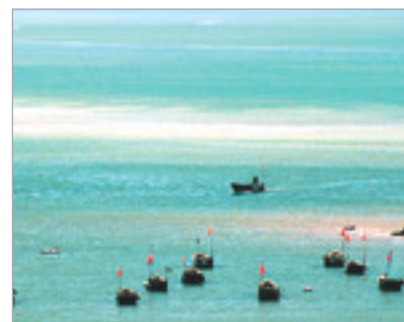
There are 21 beaches, each 300 meters or more. Of them, the Jihu and Nanchangtu beaches, the so-called "sisterly beaches", are most attractive. When you stand on the crescent-shaped Jihu Beach set against a clear autumn sky, with the bays hemmed in by green mountains, it's hard to imagine a greater beauty than that which meets the eye. The clear blue seawater, the pure and white beach sand and the naked rocks. Nanchangtan Beach lies to the south of the Jihu Beach with a separation of 300 meters, and offers a different scene. The southern wind slams angry waves against the shore at Nanchangtan, while it is miraculously quiet at Jihu. When the northern wind blows, the reverse is true.

Even non-swimmers are safe on the beaches - the slope is virtually flat for more than 200 meters. A verse describes the beaches as "golden as gold dust and soft as moss".

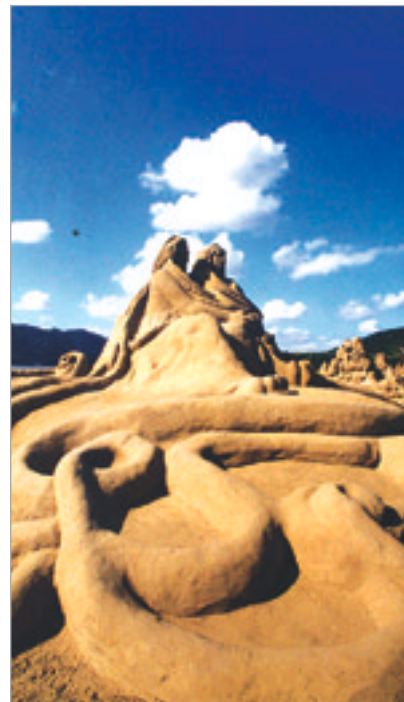
One of the best activities for the autumn tourist is



Perfect setting for a romance movie



Fishing: all day and all night



Sand sculptures

Photos by Cai Lei

night sea angling. You may fish for sea crabs and shrimps. Angling in the sea, surrounded by glimmering light from the boats and the moon, it can seem like paradise. For a wonderful fish dinner, hook some precious groupers during the day. At the dinner table in Guangzhou, Shanghai or Beijing, groupers are an expensive delicacy. At Luhua Islet where hairtail, sea eel and groupers abound, one man once caught 65 kilograms of groupers in one day!

Gourmets wanted

If you are a connoisseur of gourmet food, the guest-house of the Zhoushan No. 2 Marine Fishing Co. on the Zhoushan Island, the business hub of the entire Zhoushan Archipelago, will satisfy your appetite. It offers a feast of fish dishes. The chefs on the island have some unique techniques for cooking fish. Diplomatic envoys from 66 countries have come here to taste them.

If you get tired of the water, mount the island peaks and watch the sun rise over the ocean. If it is a terrifically steep cliff facing the pounding sea waves, it is all the more exciting to stand there, watching the sun shed its golden rays over the sea. I recommend the sites at Xiaolushan and Cuigangqi on the Sijiao Islet, Xiaoxitian on the Gouqi Islet and Yunwuding on the Huaniao Islet.

Cowards tremble!

East of the Sijiao Islet is a famous natural rock growth: twin rocks shaped like a deer's neck. The huge wall-like rocks drop vertically into the sea and the water roars through them, loud as thunder, whipping up waves more than 30 meters. In the north of the islet two rocks are suspended over the sea, like a lying rat and a sedan chair. At the Shengshan Islet, in the eastern-most tip of the archipelago there is a coastline of more than 1,000 meters made up of walled cliffs, 60 to 70 meters high, as if being cut by the heavens. There's a magnificent view of the sea as the waves roar at the bottom of the cape. It's enough to make cowards tremble! In the northeast of Huanglong Island, towering over rocky cliffs are two huge rocks in the shape of a gold ingot. When you touch them lightly, they move to the right and to the left but when you really want to move them, it is an impossible task.

Introduce a Chinese place for traveling that suits the season (every first week of the month.) Ideas or suggestions, please write to dongnan@ynet.com or call 6590 2524

Tips:

How to get there:

Take a boat trip to Shengsi Islands from the terminal at Nanpu Bridge in Shanghai. The boat service is divided into slow boat and fast vessel services. The slow boat service will take 3 to 4 hours to arrive at Shengsi for a fare of 90 yuan and the fast vessel service will take about 70 minutes for a fare of 96 yuan. If you get seasick, you are advised to take the slow boat which is steadier.

Where to board:

There are reasonably clean guest-houses at Shengsi islands. Local delicacies: Sea crabs are caught on the spot, exceedingly fresh. The crab is fattest in winter. The most famous local dish is a bean curd soup cooked with a local fish called the 'small tiger head fish'. Try the steamed cuttlefish too. And local mussel - soft and delicious and locally called 'three-laughter fish'. If you are bold enough to try new things, have a bite of the yellow sea snail sauce. It's unexpectedly delicious.

Doorway to an oasis